

Spring/Summer 2024



# UCD today

## GEOFFREY HINTON IS AWARDED THE UCD ULYSSES MEDAL

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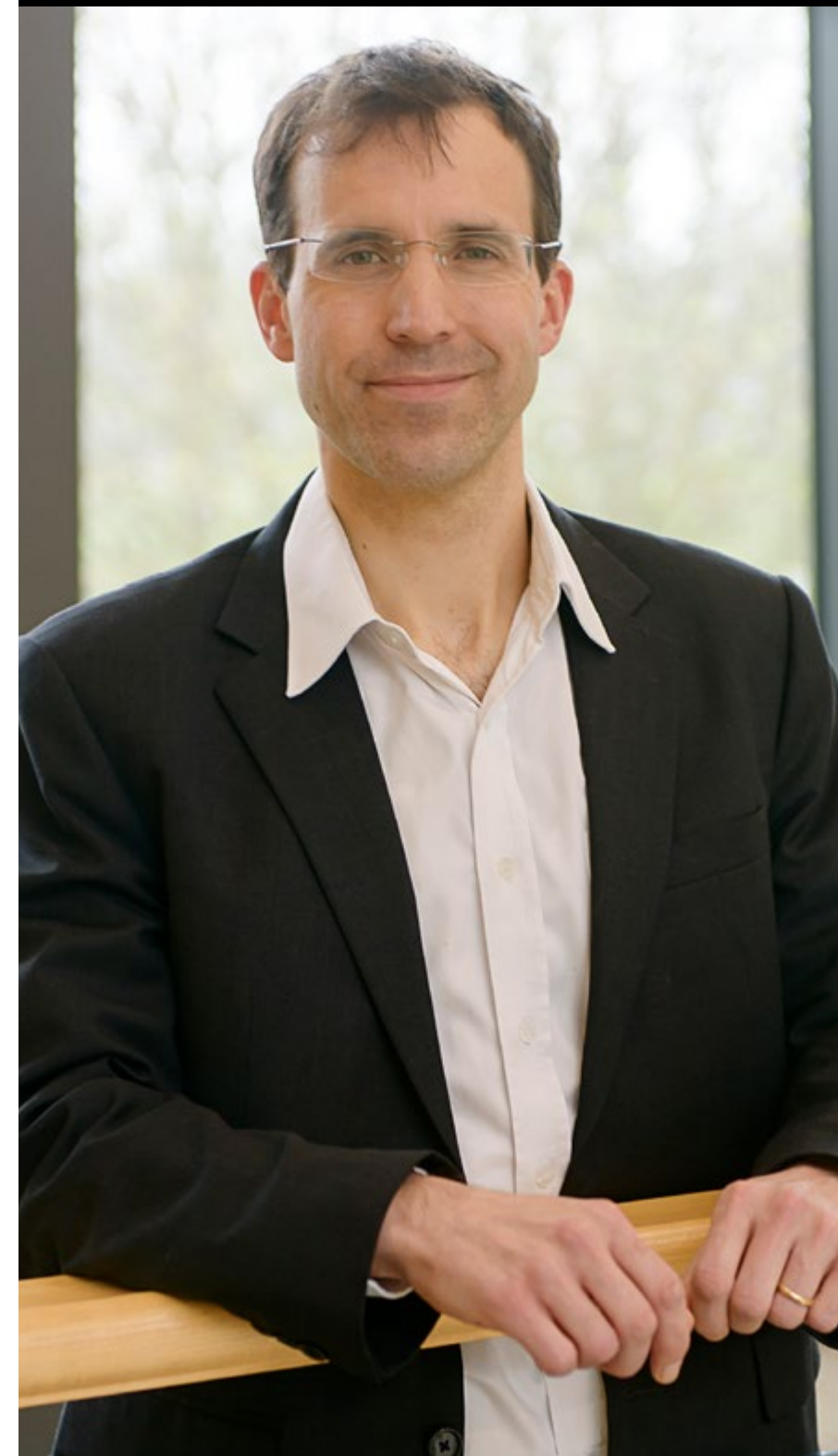
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**Cover image:** Geoffrey Hinton awarded UCD Ulysses Medal



The Una Europa Assembly gathered at the atrium in the UCD Sutherland School of Law.

## Una Europa General Assembly at UCD

**UCD welcomed 300 members of the Una Europa community to campus for the General Assembly in December 2023. Una Europa is an alliance of eleven research-intensive universities, including UCD, who share the common goal of developing a truly European University of the Future.**

Professional staff, students and faculty from across the alliance gathered at UCD for three days of fruitful conversation, strategic reflection and cultural exchange. The event tagline, *What's the story?*, was chosen to reflect both the Dublin vernacular phrase and UCD's position as the 'storyteller' of Una Europa, leading the alliance on communications, outreach and dissemination.

Highlights of the General Assembly included the Una Europa Talk at UCD O'Reilly Hall, a panel discussion on higher education in Europe, a plenary session exploring the

Una Europa 2030 Strategy, and lunchtime events showcasing UCD's history and culture, including traditional Irish music and storytelling, Irish language classes, a sculpture walking tour, and visits to UCD Library's Special Collections and the National Folklore Collection.

At the plenary session and strategic meeting, Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement, was officially announced as the incoming Chair of the Una Europa Board of Directors. Professor O'Riordan's appointment follows the recent

election of Professor Orla Feely as President of CESAER, a leading association of universities of science and technology in Europe. In addition, Dipti Pandya, UCD Research, was recently elected as the President of EARMA, the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators. She also supports UCD's Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact on Una Europa's Research Strategy Group. Speaking at the Una Europa Plenary, Professor Feely noted that UCD's leadership of three prominent European higher education fora gives us an important role in the conversation about the future of European research funding.

For more about Una Europa, visit [UCD.ie/UnaEuropa](https://www.ucd.ie/UnaEuropa)

## Dr Anthony Fauci awarded an Honorary Fellowship by UCD School of Medicine

**On Thursday 18 April, Dr Anthony Fauci was awarded an Honorary Fellowship, the highest honour that the UCD School of Medicine confers on an individual at a special event held at UCD.**

Professor Mary Horgan, UCD School of Medicine, delivered the citation at the event, outlining the incredible contribution Dr Fauci has made throughout his career. She said, "UCD School of Medicine is delighted to welcome Dr Anthony Fauci to our campus today. His major contribution to science and medicine and his leadership and dedication to public service is being recognised with the awarding of an Honorary Fellowship. Dr Fauci's work in the field of infectious diseases and immunology has contributed to major breakthroughs in the prevention and treatment of diseases. He is a role model for our students and lives by our values of excellence, integrity, innovation and service to our global community."



Professor Orla Feely, UCD President; Dr Anthony Fauci; Professor Michael Keane, Dean of Medicine, Head of UCD School of Medicine.



Pictured L-R at UCD O'Reilly Hall are Asso Prof Andrew Hines; Prof Jeremy Simpson, College Principal, UCD College of Science; Prof Orla Feely, UCD President; Prof Geoffrey Hinton; Prof Katharine Robson Brown, VP for Research, Innovation and Impact; and Asso Prof Neil Hurley, Head of UCD School of Computer Science.

## Professor Geoffrey Hinton is presented with the UCD Ulysses Medal

**Professor Geoffrey Hinton was presented with the UCD Ulysses Medal by UCD President, Professor Orla Feely during a ceremony at UCD O'Reilly Hall on 8 April 2024. The UCD Ulysses medal is the highest honour that the college can bestow, and is awarded to individuals who have made an outstanding global contribution.**

Professor Hinton is one of the most influential Artificial Intelligence researchers of the past 50 years; a pioneer who spent his career trying to build AI systems that model the human brain. Dr Andrew Hines, UCD School of Computer Science delivered the citation.

Professor Hinton gave a talk about Artificial Intelligence, touching on neural networks, backpropagation, language and meaning,



Assistant Prof Andrew Hines, UCD School of Computer Science delivering the citation

learning and language models and how LLMs work. UCD President, Professor Orla Feely spoke about the challenges of research and Geoffrey Hinton's career and impact. She spoke about the potential applications, opportunities, limitations and challenges of AI.

Professor Katherine Robson Brown, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, joined Geoffrey Hinton and Dr Hines on stage for a discussion about his career and his thoughts on a range of subjects. The

discussion centred around his advice to early career researchers, and how we work together to make AI safe in the interests of humanity and society. He also talked about the risk of bias and disinformation. But on the positive side, discussed the benefits of AI in health and other sectors, such as medical imaging. Professor Hinton further discussed his views and insights on topics such as work-life balance, energy use, neuroscience and the brain and the role of government in making AI safe.

## IRC Researcher of the Year 2023

**Professor Carel Le Roux, an expert on how "the gut talks to the brain", has won the prestigious Irish Research Council (IRC) Researcher of the Year Award for 2023.**

Professor Le Roux is a professor of Chemical Pathology at UCD School of Medicine and is Director of the Metabolic Medicine Group affiliated with the UCD Diabetes Complications Research Centre (DCRC) in the UCD Conway Institute. His studies have focused on the impact of diet, exercise, medication and surgery, including bariatric surgery, on enhancing gut-brain signalling for the management and treatment of the disease of obesity. In his work as a leading clinical scientist, he investigates how the brain controls hunger and satiety, while studying signals from the gut sent via hormones or neurons after a meal.



Pictured (l-r) Peter Brown, Director of the Irish Research Council, Prof Carel le Roux and Prof Daniel Carey, Chair of the Irish Research Council.

## ■ EIRSAT-1: Ireland successfully launches its first satellite into space

**EIRSAT-1, a student-built satellite from UCD, has been successfully launched into space, officially becoming Ireland's first-ever satellite.**

The miniature cube satellite, or cubesat, designed, built and tested at UCD under the guidance of the European Space Agency (ESA), was successfully deployed at the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California aboard a Falcon 9 SpaceX rocket on 1 December.

"This represents the culmination of a lot of work by a young team and a huge amount of support by the Irish space industry, the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment, Enterprise Ireland, SFI and the IRC to deliver a thrilling result of Ireland in space," said Professor Lorraine Hanlon, Director of EIRSAT-1 and the UCD Centre for Space Research (UCD C-Space). "The next step now is to get used to operating our new spacecraft and get the maximum research and training out of it."

"The atmosphere post-launch was celebratory," said Dr Ronan Wall, UCD C-Space Manager, as members of the EIRSAT-1 watched their hard work blast off into space. "It's incredibly exciting and deeply satisfying to have finally joined other nations across Europe and the world that are positioned to do great research and innovation from our own spacecraft. We look forward to continuing to train and develop space expertise to support research and industry in Ireland."

Welcoming the successful launch and congratulating the members of the EIRSAT-1, Professor Orla Feely, UCD President, said the project had delivered outstanding research and developed talent throughout its six-year development. "By joining the scientific expertise here at UCD together with the ESA's expertise in the building and testing of satellites and space systems, Ireland's first satellite EIRSAT-1 has now successfully launched into space and reached its orbit around the Earth."

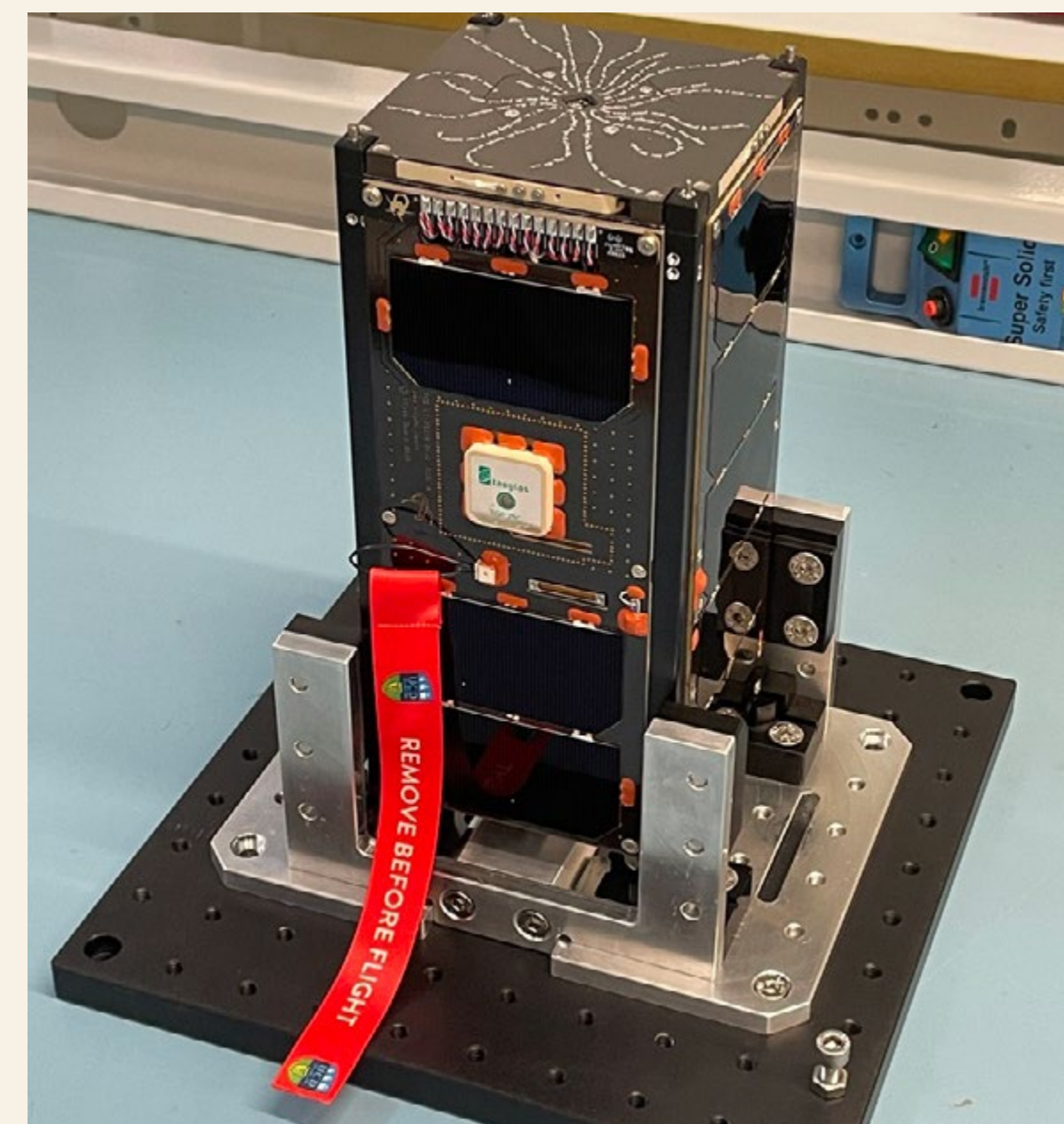


The EIRSAT team in celebratory mood post launch!

A flagship programme of UCD C-Space, the UCD School of Physics and UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, EIRSAT-1 was developed under the framework of ESA Academy's 'Fly Your Satellite!' educational programme (FYS) - a fully hands-on initiative that aids university student teams build their own satellites according to professional standards, with ESA also providing launch opportunities.

Work on the project provided training for students in all major aspects of satellite development and introduced space systems engineering and skills at UCD not previously seen across any Irish industry or academia.

Dozens of UCD students, including nine PhDs candidates, worked with ESA experts to design and build EIRSAT-1 over the last six years, participating in test campaigns at ESA Education's CubeSat Support Facility in Belgium, as well as attending dedicated spacecraft communications at ESA Academy's Training and Learning Centre, and later at the European Space Operations Centre



in Darmstadt, Germany, to learn Ireland's first spacecraft operations procedures.

Some 20,000 hours were spent by students

testing and problem solving ahead of EIRSAT-1's voyage into space.

Now that it is in low earth orbit, EIRSAT-1 will carry out three experiments and report data back to its command centre at UCD. Its primary task is to study gamma-ray bursts, the most luminous events in the universe, and will do so with a miniature detector built into its frame.

Its other payload includes a novel attitude control system designed by the Dynamics and Control Group in the UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering that will ensure it is always pointed in the correct direction, as well as equipment to perform a thermal coating study to assess the performance of surface treatments for satellites developed in Ireland.

In addition, a co-created poem called 'All Ways Home' is engraved on the outer cover of the antenna module in a formation like a spiral galaxy. It was written by 12 Irish school children working as part of a collaborative project across Ireland.

## Campus celebrations as graduates conferred in summer ceremonies

**Over 1,300 students were conferred with their degrees this month at UCD O'Reilly Hall.**

Across three ceremonies over the course of June, the latest cohort of undergraduates and graduates had the opportunity to celebrate their academic achievements. 586 undergraduate degrees were conferred by the President, Professor Orla Feely, alongside 714 postgraduate awards, including 274 masters, 308 diplomas and certificates, and 132 research degrees. Over 100 PhD degrees were conferred to graduates.

Graduating students were from the UCD School of Medicine, the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, and the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, and the UCD College of Engineering and Architecture, the UCD College of Science, and the UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences.

A number of medals were awarded to students in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

Two honorary doctorates were awarded during the summer.

Dr Mike Magan was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science for his "extraordinary contribution" to the Irish dairy industry, to AHI, to UCD and to Irish society more broadly.

The former Chair of Animal Health Ireland (AHI) and a Longford dairy farmer, Dr Magan was central to the establishment of AHI in 2009, which fundamentally changed the animal health landscape in Ireland.

Establishing a partnership approach to animal health, it brought together farmers, processors, animal health advisors, and government to ensure that Ireland's beef and dairy production, valued at €9.2 billion in 2023, remained competitive in a global market without compromising on the health and welfare of Ireland's food producing animals.

Delivering the citation, Professor Simon More recounted that at his retirement as AHI Chair in 2021, Charlie McConalogue TD, the Minister for



Agriculture, Food and the Marine, said: "Mike Magan has been and will continue to be one of the great leaders of the agri-sector. [His] leadership in the space of animal health has ensured our sector is better placed to face the challenges we will encounter in the future."

In July, former EU Commissioner, Dr Phil Hogan was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science.

In the citation for the award by Professor Peter Clinch, Dr Hogan was recognised for his distinguished contributions in the areas of politics, trade, EU policy, economics, the environment, rural development, food, climate and the bio-economy.

Alongside his time in Europe, the Kilkenny native has been a local councillor, Fine Gael TD and Irish Government Minister. He is credited as an important advocate for Europe and Ireland's interests during the Brexit negotiations, the honorary degree award recognises Phil Hogan's remarkable 40-year career committed to public service.

Accepting the Honorary Degree, Dr Hogan expressed the great pride he held that Ireland still placed an importance on the accessibility between politicians and the public, and that it had not forgotten what he called the "profound wisdom of local communities".



Dr Mike Magan



Dr Phil Hogan

## John M Kelly Memorial Lecture 2024 marks 10 years of UCD Sutherland School of Law

The John M Kelly Memorial Lecture is one of the most important events in the calendar of UCD Sutherland School of Law. This year, the School marks its tenth year in the purpose-built building and the lecture was a special celebration of that milestone. UCD welcomed Judge Suzanne Kingston of the General Court of the European Union to deliver the lecture. Judge Kingston was a very highly regarded Senior Counsel practicing at the Irish bar, prior to her appointment to the bench. She has also been a faculty member at UCD Sutherland School of Law since 2007. From 2015 to 2017 she led the first major project in the School funded by the European Research Council (ERC).



The Chief Justice, Mr Donal O'Donnell congratulates Robert Grendon and Aisling Maloney on their speeches

As part of the ten-year celebrations, Professor Orla Feely, UCD President, welcomed guests including the Chief Justice and the Attorney General. She acknowledged the enormous contribution that philanthropy has played in the

success of the School, both in the capital project for the building but also in providing financial supports for students and funding academic research and teaching posts.

The evening started with two current students speaking about

their experiences of studying in UCD Sutherland School of Law. Aisling Maloney, BCL Law with Politics student, spoke movingly about the supports she has received, and Robert Grendon, BCL Law with History student, then spoke about the richness of his college experience.

Mr Donal O'Donnell, Chief Justice, a former student of Professor Kelly in UCD, described him as one of the most brilliant people to have taught in the School. The Chief Justice introduced Judge Suzanne Kingston and expressed his great admiration for her achievements, commenting on how she has successfully managed to intersect an academic and a practising career and, at all times, demonstrate an unflin-

commitment to the pursuit of excellence.

Judge Kingston's lecture title was 'On the role of constitutional identity: Teach solais or will-o'-the-wisp?' and in a highly informative overview of the subject, she talked about how the concept has given rise to a heated debate in the EU, with some regarding it as a guiding light and others arguing, equally vociferously, that it is essentially an opportunity for constitutional relativism. Citing a myriad of cases from across the European Union, from the formation of the EEC to the modern day, Professor Kingston finished by concluding that, in her opinion, the concept of constitutional identity is here to stay.

## Launch of New Collaborative Research Centre to Transform Food System

A Co-Centre run jointly by Queen's University Belfast, University of Sheffield, and UCD is a first-of-a-kind collaboration across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Great Britain. The €35 million Co-Centre will drive societal and political change in food system transformation and transition to climate neutrality by 2050.

The Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems will bring together world-leading researchers with research expertise in specific shared areas of common interest that are core to food system transformation including: food safety, food production,

nutrition, plant and animal science, behavioural change, data science, food system governance, and the political process of food system transformation.

It is jointly funded for six years by the Government of Ireland's Department of

Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science through Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and through the Shared Island Fund, and by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and industry. The interdisciplinary research team will work collaboratively with government, policymakers and industry stakeholders across jurisdictions to deliver innovative solutions to drive societal and political change in the transition to climate neutrality by 2050.

Patrick O'Donovan TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, and Andrew Muir, Northern



Pictured at the launch were (l-r) Prof Aedin Cassidy, Co-Director of the Co-Centre and Director for Interdisciplinary Research at the Institute for Global Food Security at Queen's University Belfast; Prof Louise Dye, lead of the integrated UKRI research programme, and Co-Director of the Institute for Sustainable Food at the University of Sheffield; Dr Siobhán Roche, Director of Science for the Economy at SFI and Prof Eileen Gibney, Co-Director of the Co-Centre and Director of UCD Institute of Food and Health (Photo Credit: Jason Clarke).

Ireland's Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, welcomed the launch of a transformative new joint research centre.

Professor Eileen Gibney, Co-Director of the Co-Centre and Director of UCD Institute of Food and Health said: "This Co-Centre will play an important

role in transforming our food system to be more healthy and sustainable across these islands. The Co-Centre will drive change in the way we produce and consume food, addressing economic, social, and environmental problems to ensure safe nutritious food for all. We need to consider

the challenges we face now and in the future, and provide solutions that will work for us all."

The new Co-Centre delivers on the Irish Government's Food Vision 2030, the Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework, and UK's National Food Strategy.



Professor  
Tasman Crowe

## IN PROFILE: PROFESSOR TASMAN CROWE

Professor Tasman Crowe was born in Australia, raised in the UK and joined UCD in 2001. An expert in marine ecology with enthusiasm for interdisciplinarity and policy impact, he was director of UCD Earth Institute before being appointed to the new role of Vice-President for Sustainability last year.



## ■ In Profile...

### How has your first year been as VP for Sustainability?

*It's exciting and challenging to transition into a new area for the University and for myself. It has felt like a really big step forward to establish the Sustainability Unit and our Core Working Groups. We are a team of three, supported by four Core Working Groups, each with 15 to 20 enthusiastic people bringing diverse perspectives from all six colleges, as academics, students and technical and professional staff. These working groups are in the areas of 1) education, training and student experience, 2) research, innovation and impact, 3) operational integration and 4) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) engagement and impact. I feel like we've got the person power now to really start to drive the sustainability agenda forward, through wide engagement and background research leading to well thought-through recommendations for action that we can take to UMT via the UMT Sustainability Group.*

### Have there been any noteworthy achievements in the first year?

*We were pleased that UCD was ranked in the top 50 worldwide and number one in Ireland in the QS World Sustainability Rankings 2024. UCD was also recently appointed SDG Champion by the Department for the Environment, Climate and Communications for the 2024-2025 programme.*

### What are the goals of UCD Sustainability?

*I think the creation of this VP role presents an opportunity to embed sustainability into the policy, governance and day-to-day life of UCD in the same way as health and safety and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). We want to make sure that UCD is doing as much as it can to contribute to the sustainability agenda. There's a lot already going on in the University and we need to communicate that better both internally and externally. As well as and as part of establishing overarching strategic priorities, we also need to support, encourage and stimulate*



*the passion and commitment that's already there. That's the real lifeblood of sustainability.*

### What are some of UCD's tangible sustainability targets?

*We have a legal obligation under the National Climate Action Plan to reduce carbon emissions by 51% and improve energy efficiency by 50% by 2030. UCD has its own action plan for achieving those targets. But ultimately, we're going to want to do much more than just comply with the national legislation. We want to be innovators and leaders in this area. We want UCD to come up with ideas and try them out on campus before rolling them out to wider society. The pilot Bike Library scheme, which allows staff and students to hire electric and fold-up bikes for free, is a great example of a collaborative sustainable travel initiative with scope beyond UCD.*

### What first sparked your interest in sustainability?

*I grew up on the Cornish coast and was always taught by my family to be interested in nature. I was fascinated when exploring rock pools as a child and that eventually translated into a degree in Zoology from Bristol University and a PhD in Marine Ecology from the University of Sydney. But I wanted to do more than just understand nature; I wanted to help conserve and protect it.*

### What is an insight have you gleaned from your career to date that informs your VP role?

*As my career developed, it became more and more apparent to me that if you want to take steps to look after nature you need to also recognise the balance between meeting human needs and meeting the needs of the natural world. Sustainability is as much about people as it is about planet.*

### How can we walk that fine line?

*It's termed a 'wicked problem', which is fitting. I think it's useful to use the Sustainable Development Goals as a framing for our approach to sustainability. They're very broad, capturing environment, society, economy and governance, and they work on the principle of leaving no one behind. We need to find the steps that will take us closest to our most important priorities while not neglecting or unduly damaging the other priorities. It is a real challenge that requires careful consideration and collective conversations.*

### How can students and staff get involved in sustainability initiatives?

*This is very close to my heart. Staff and students are already involved in sustainability in so many ways, completely on their own initiative. I think it's incumbent on us to help them to do that and make that as easy as possible. We can help them to connect with other like-minded people or perhaps with people who have other points of view. Often the best ideas and initiatives come out of conversations between people bringing in different perspectives. It's important to me that we make sure these conversations are happening and that resulting initiatives can be resourced. We have set up seed funding programmes for interdisciplinary research projects around sustainability. We also have a call for proposals for sustainability initiatives which don't necessarily need the research component. For this we are keen to hear from people with ideas to make the university more sustainable.*

**“We were pleased that UCD was ranked in the top 50 worldwide and number one in Ireland in the QS World Sustainability Rankings 2024. UCD was also recently appointed SDG Champion by the Department for the Environment, Climate and Communications for the 2024-2025 programme.”**

*It's a small amount of money to do a pilot project that could translate into action adopted within the university or more widely outside it. We're also going to launch a programme for student-led projects in September. These student sustainability initiatives will be run by students for students and can also involve staff collaborators.*

**Speaking of students, tell us about the new UCD Sustainability Society.**

*The level of concern and fear about climate change is greater with students than with academics to some degree. There is also a lot of new and different thinking in the student body, along with a high level of commitment and organisation among individuals. The students have recently set up a new Sustainability Society (Sus Soc) with 430+ members from across the University. It grew out of the BSc in Sustainability programme but has expanded rapidly beyond that. It's great to see that getting underway. We're certainly engaging with the Sus Soc as a way to connect with students who want to get involved and do more around sustainability.*

**Isn't there an interesting grassroots movement underway in UCD to support people experiencing climate anxiety?**

*One of the initiatives that the Sus Soc started was in recognition of climate anxiety and the sense that it would be helpful just to talk about that. 'Climate Chats' are regular meetings organised by the students for people to come together and talk about their sense of climate change and climate action, and about concerns and fears, hopes and plans. It's a great initiative. One of the areas that we are generally interested in is health and wellbeing. People tend to think of sustainability as being all about decarbonising the energy systems, making buildings more sustainable, sorting out waste management, providing water fountains and so on - and we are very much invested in doing those things. But I think the human dimension is very important too, such as the impact of it all on staff and student wellbeing, on their health and mental health.*



**Do you ever get worried about climate change?**

*I think a lot of people are very worried about climate change. Certainly, it's far more pressing than people give it credit for. Even if we stopped emitting carbon tomorrow there would still be a run on of severe impact on our planet and our society. But I would always be someone who tries to see what can be done. We certainly need to up the ante and keep the pressure on to make transformative change. But I think we need to make sure that we are also helping to find workable solutions that can take us there.*

**What characteristics do you think make a good leader?**

*To me, it's about being a good listener. So, it's really important to engage with and understand the area that you're trying to lead and the people that are involved and engaged with it. It's about being authentic. I think it's important that you have a high level of respect for the people that you work with. You have a vision of where you think things should go and how to get there but you are genuinely open to adjustments through dialogue with other people and new ideas and perspectives. When you do make a commitment to do something, you follow through on that. That kind of integrity is important, as is giving credit where it's due.*

*For more information about sustainability, contact [vpsustainability@ucd.ie](mailto:vpsustainability@ucd.ie)*

*“There is also a lot of new and different thinking in the student body, along with a high level of commitment and organisation among individuals. The students have recently set up a new Sustainability Society (Sus Soc) with 430+ members from across the University. It grew out of the BSc in Sustainability programme but has expanded rapidly beyond that.”*



Pictured (l-r) are Prof Niall English, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering; Prof David Brayden, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine; Emeritus Prof Patrick Clancy, UCD School of Sociology; Prof Porscha Fermanis, UCD School of English, Drama and Film and Prof Graeme Warren, UCD School of Archaeology.

## UCD Faculty elected to Royal Irish Academy

**The Royal Irish Academy has welcomed five UCD professors to sign its members book, the highest academic honour in Ireland. The cohort were among 28 new RIA members elected to the Academy in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the sciences, humanities, and social sciences, as well as to public service.**

The UCD professors newly elected to the RIA on 24 May 2024 were:

- **Professor David Brayden**, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine
- **Emeritus Professor Patrick Clancy**, UCD School of Sociology
- **Professor Niall English**, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering
- **Professor Porscha Fermanis**, UCD School of English, Drama and Film
- **Professor Graeme Warren**, UCD School of Archaeology

Also invited to sign the RAI's members book was distinguished UCD Physics graduate and Emeritus Senior Lecturer at the UCD School of Physics, Dr John A (Tony) Scott.

Welcoming the newest entries for 2024, RIA President, Professor Patrick Guiry said Ireland should be immensely proud of "these 28 women and men who have been elected by their peers and have brought international acclaim to our country through their distinct areas of research. As Members of the Royal Irish Academy they will support and strengthen our capacity to achieve our strategic goals and objectives as we look to the launch of our Strategic Plan 2024-2028 in the coming weeks".

## UCD Bike Library Pilot Rolled Out to All Students

**The UCD Bike Library pilot programme, which was launched last November and available to UCD staff, is now open to all UCD staff and students. UCD students can now apply for folding bikes from the Bike Library. The bikes can be accessed on-campus using self-service bike bunkers.**

The UCD Bike Library initiative is coordinated by the UCD Energy Institute in partnership with UCD Library. This pilot programme is one of three Sustainability Demonstrator research projects supported by Performance Funding through the Higher Education Authority.

Academic lead Professor Francesco Pilla, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, said: "We are delighted that this new scheme makes bike loans available free of charge to all the students and staff in UCD. The aim of the initiative is to encourage all the members of the UCD Community to make a permanent modal shift to sustainable, active travel for their daily commutes and take an active role in achieving the climate neutrality target of Dublin city."

The UCD Bike Library is an expansion of Professor Pilla's Bike Library project which offers free bike leases to parents

of pupils in participating schools and members of participating sports clubs.

Martha Ní Riada, former UCD Students' Union President, said: "Making cycling accessible for all students is an important part of a sustainable university, particularly at a time when many students are facing longer and more expensive commutes. It's a really promising initiative that will demonstrate how accessible cycling options can make getting to and around campus much easier for students. We are encouraging as many students as possible to rally behind and make use of it, and hope that the University will continue to support it into the future."

Professor Tasman Crowe, UCD Vice-President for Sustainability said: "The Bike Library programme is a fantastic example of what can be done when a great idea for sustainability is put into practice through collaboration between diverse members of a university

community. I hope that this initiative can be picked up by other libraries and organisations around the country and beyond."

The Sustainability Demonstrator research projects, based in the UCD Energy Institute, are investigating new approaches to sustainability, focusing on the role libraries and higher education institutions can play in facilitating a modal shift to more sustainable commuting patterns.

The project is intended to demonstrate that bike libraries can function in a self-service format as with other equipment lending services which libraries offer. The project will develop a framework for bike lending libraries as an open resource for other Higher Education institutions, and organisations of similar size, to implement.

To learn more about the Bike Library, see: <https://www.ucd.ie/energy/research/ucdbikelibrarypilotprogramme/>

UCD students and staff who are interested in a bike loan can fill in the application form at <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/5NNFTRY>



Prof Francesco Pilla introduces the Bike Library Project to the UCD Community.



The Public Law Conference at UCD O'Brien Centre for Science



A packed UCD O'Reilly Hall at CIRP 2023 (College International pour la Recherche en Productique) is the world leading organisation in production engineering research at the forefront of design, optimisation, control and management of processes, machines and systems.



The Euro 2019 Conference in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science



CIRP attendees enjoying lunch by the lake.

## Organising your Conference at UCD

**UCD has a longstanding history of hosting Association Conferences. The team in the UCD Conference and Events Office support academic colleagues as they bid to host both national and international conferences in UCD.**

The team is on hand to offer support and advice from initial enquiry stage through to budgeting for room hire and assistance with onsite logistics. Mary-Beth Jennings, Operations Manager told UCD Today: "We advise on the best use of space for each and every conference on a bespoke basis. We pride ourselves in assisting our academics with an on-campus support mechanism or through the services of Professional Conference Organiser. We also provide a link to Fáilte Ireland who can provide assistance in securing Conference Business."

Fiona Rodgers, Conference and Events Manager said: "Our Conference Ambassador

programme can help academics to promote UCD as a national and international conference destination and to gain insights into the organisation of an international conference. We recognise the crucial role that Societies and International Associations play in building long-term collaborations in the search for new knowledge and creating impact."

Over the years UCD has built relationships with a number of Professional Conference Organisers (PCOs) who can support academics in the planning and organisation of conferences. They are familiar with UCD and its facilities and can provide invaluable support.

### Conference Partners International

Nicola McGrane, Conference Partners International and proud UCD alumna told us: "UCD is a special place for international conferences with the fantastic combination of a beautiful green campus, excellent meeting facilities, apartment accommodation, and proximity to the city centre. It's like a 'conference village' for delegations. They are pleasantly surprised when they arrive to this campus and a sunny day at O'Reilly Hall beside the lake is unmatched anywhere in Ireland.

"Over our 25 years in business, so much has changed in terms of technology and efficiencies have been greatly enhanced

with our online booking platforms for registration and abstract/paper submission. Instead of weighty printed programmes and abstract books, all content is provided on our conference app and delegates connect with ease.

"UCD has always had a global outlook which really helps academics to have the ambition to bring international conferences to Ireland. We've been so fortunate over the years to have dealt with amazing people who have put Ireland on a global scale. On a personal note, as a graduate from UCD it's so special to me to be able to bring conferences back home.

"Conferencing is an amazing industry and

generates €716 million in economic impact and supports 20,000 jobs annually for Ireland. Conferences and the wider business tourism sector bring visitors from all over the world which in turn helps feed our tourism ecosystem. Equally from a non-financial viewpoint, our conferences help reinforce the strength of Ireland Inc and our intellectual capital as well as the visitor experience that we provide.

"Conference Partners International was one of the first dedicated PCOs established in Ireland and as we celebrate 25 years in business, we have built up so much experience and knowledge in how to win that

international conference bid. But what really drives me, is winning for our clients and I love nothing more than seeing the pride of UCD academics when they host their international community in UCD and in Ireland. I think ultimately though, we work in a relationships industry, and I'd like to think that the reason people enjoy working with us is that they know we'll do a great job and they can go to a huge bank of researchers and ambassadors from UCD and beyond who will testify to that."

Contact Nicola at [nicola.mcgrane@conferencepartners.com](mailto:nicola.mcgrane@conferencepartners.com) for further information.

## Organising your Conference at UCD *continued...*

### Keynote PCO

Kasia Mahony, Business Development Manager and Digital Event Strategist said: "Keynote PCO had the pleasure of working with Hester McAllister and Antonella Puggioni, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, to deliver the long awaited IVRAEVDI 2023 Conference in June 2023. IVRAEVDI 2023 welcomed over 600 delegates from 35 countries to UCD. Originally planned for 2021, rescheduling of the conference allowed the move to UCD, utilising O'Reilly Hall for exhibitions and catering and using the excellent facilities in the O'Brien Centre for Science for conference sessions.

"The large open spaces of O'Reilly Hall offered ample space for catering and networking. Delegates loved the feeling of light and space in the conservatory for the welcome reception. Having been given permission to set up a bespoke, covered outdoor seating area on the lawns overlooking the lake, delegates really did get to enjoy UCD at its very best. From a logistics perspective, the availability of a large car park provided

the perfect departure point for our extensive tour programmes. The excellent on-campus accommodation and the fantastic work by the team working in the UCD accommodation village completed what was a perfect offering for this conference. Every venue is of course, only as good as the team operating it. The professionalism and genuine commitment of the UCD team to the success of this event were much appreciated.

"Keynote PCO is a specialist conference management company for international association congresses taking place in Ireland, providing a complete service for this sector from bid process through to full delivery of the event.

"We adopt a flexible partnership approach, in which our team are an integral part of the overall operation of the event, in order to maximise the benefit of our experience for our client, sponsors, delegates and others involved in the conference."

Visit [www.keynotepco.ie](http://www.keynotepco.ie) or contact Kasia for more information.

### Advantage Event Experts

Susan Nolan, Director, Business Development said: "In July 2022 we worked with Professor Eoin Carolan, UCD Sutherland School of Law to deliver the Public Law Conference. Professor Carolan jointly hosted the event with Professor Jason Varuhas, Melbourne Law School and Dr Sarah Fulham-McQuillan, UCD Sutherland School of Law.

"The conference commemorated the centenary of the Irish Constitution. It was a high-profile event with 16 global speakers such as Justice Donal O'Donnell, Chief Justice of Ireland, and Justice Gerard Hogan, Supreme Court of Ireland, and attracted 150 delegates from all over the world. There were 39 presentations and ten doctoral presentations. The welcome reception and buffet, sponsored by Mason, Hayes and Curran, took place in the Atrium of the Sutherland School of Law and the gala dinner took place in St Patrick's Hall in Dublin Castle.

"UCD offers outstanding conference facilities. The Sutherland School of Law

building provides state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of the wonderful UCD campus. The multiple research centres in UCD add prestige to a conference and give the conference host an additional reason to attract delegates.

"The economic benefit to Ireland is obvious with business tourism travellers being most lucrative visitors, spending an average of €1,650 when in the country. In addition to this economic benefit, conferences also enhance the academic profile of UCD and the conference host.

"Advantage Event Experts is a full service PCO, a founding member of the Association of Irish Professional Conference Organisers (AIPCO), and fully accredited by Fáilte Ireland. We bring a wealth of experience to every event and either Ronan Flood or Susan Nolan will take on the role of Project Lead for each event, ensuring personal attention from a senior conference professional."

Contact Susan at [susan.nolan@advantagegroup.ie](mailto:susan.nolan@advantagegroup.ie) for more information.

### Abbey Conferences

Greg Carew, Director of Conferences and Sales told us: "I think what makes UCD stand out is the quality, variety and flexibility of the spaces available. UCD is an ideal venue for an international association conference. With facilities like O'Reilly Hall, O'Brien Centre for Science and the UCD University Club, to name but a few, there are so many options available on campus to match the footprint of any event. The availability of on-campus accommodation is also a major plus, this really gives a conference village feel to the whole event and greatly enhances the overall delegate experience.

"UCD academics have the knowledge and expertise that gives the conference a certain status and level of quality. In addition, it's the pride in showcasing UCD, Dublin and Ireland to an international audience that always shines through. This sense of welcome can be felt by international delegates which makes them want to attend and be part of the event when it's here.

"When an international conference comes to

Ireland the benefits are widespread. It's not only the knowledge that is shared during the conference but also the relationships and collaborations that are formed before, during and after the event. Of course, the economic impact is also significant with Fáilte Ireland estimating that the value of each international conference delegate to the Irish economy now stands at over €1,880.

"We believe that our attention to detail is what differentiates Abbey as the ideal partner for your conference. We are fully aware that no two conferences are the same. Our plans are built around you, your event and your objectives. Abbey is there to take away the workload, provide strategic guidance and allow your conference hosting experience to be a positive and beneficial one. Your success is our success."

Contact Greg at [info@abbeyconference.ie](mailto:info@abbeyconference.ie) for further information.



Members of the Arthur Cox EMBRACE network in Belfield in May 2024 along with two UCD student recipients of the UCD Sanctuary scholarship.

## ■ Arthur Cox LLP supports UCD University of Sanctuary Programme

**Arthur Cox LLP, one of Ireland's leading law firms, has announced its decision to support the UCD's University of Sanctuary programme with a philanthropic commitment of €35,000 for the 2024/25 academic year. This generous donation will go towards annual maintenance payments to Sanctuary scholarship recipients.**

The University of Sanctuary programme offers a welcoming and supportive environment to students from refugee backgrounds. Refugees and International Protection Applicants face numerous barriers to accessing higher education in Ireland, and UCD is committed to breaking down these barriers and creating opportunities for full participation in higher education. As a University of Sanctuary, UCD supports up to 50 Sanctuary students annually.

With a rich history of over 100 years, Arthur Cox LLP is committed

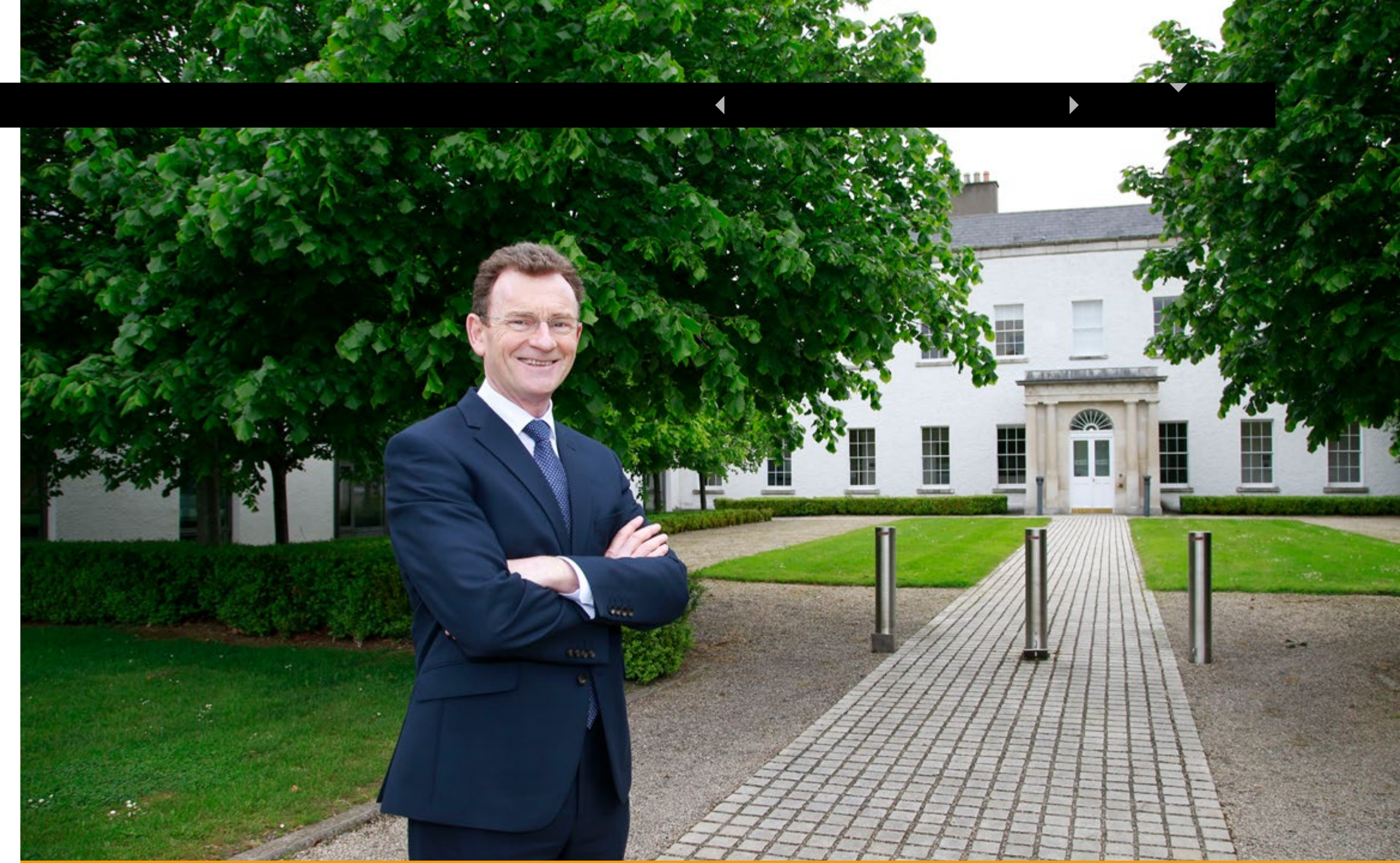
to making a positive impact on society through various philanthropic and community engagement activities. As a philanthropic partner, UCD Access and Lifelong Learning and UCD Foundation will collaborate with Arthur Cox on regular engagement opportunities for Sanctuary students, including mentoring, with the aim of increasing students' confidence, knowledge of the professional world and sense of belonging in Ireland.

"Arthur Cox is delighted to support the UCD University of Sanctuary

programme. We believe in the power of education to transform lives and are committed to helping refugees and International Protection Applicants overcome the barriers they face", said Joanelle O'Cleirigh, Partner, Arthur Cox.

Students in the UCD University of Sanctuary Programme receive a range of financial, academic and personal supports to help them succeed and flourish at UCD. The programme covers course fees and provides financial assistance for eligible applicants with a forced migration background who are not otherwise eligible for state support and do not have alternative funding.

"We are incredibly grateful for Arthur Cox's support. Their commitment will make a significant impact on the lives of our Sanctuary students, providing them with the financial stability and professional engagement necessary to thrive in their academic and personal lives," said Dr Bairbre Fleming, Director of UCD Access and Lifelong Learning.



Tom Flanagan, UCD Director of Enterprise and Commercialisation.

## ■ NovaUCD Named One of Europe's Leading Start-Up Hubs by FT

**NovaUCD, the Centre for New Ventures and Entrepreneurs and the hub of innovation and start-up activities at UCD since 2003, has been named as one of Europe's Leading Start-Up Hubs 2024 by the Financial Times and Statista.**

The inaugural edition of the Europe's Leading Start-Up Hubs special report, which aims to identify the best incubator and accelerator programmes in Europe, was published in the Financial Times. It showcased the top 125 start-up hubs located in 21 countries across Europe and NovaUCD (ranked in the Top 100) is one of only three start-up hubs on the island of Ireland to be included and the only Irish university-based hub to feature.

Statista identified approximately 2,000 start-up hubs from across Europe who were invited to submit online applications. Among the criteria for hubs to be included in the inaugural Report were being physically based in Europe, in operation since at least 2019 and offer at least one incubation or acceleration programme. The rankings of eligible hubs were based

on survey responses of alumni of the hubs (2,600 in total), track record analysis and recommendation analysis from start-up investors and seasoned entrepreneurs.

Tom Flanagan, UCD Director of Enterprise and Commercialisation said: "It is a great honour to be included in the inaugural report. Since it was established in 2003, NovaUCD has supported over 550 start-ups and new ventures, including companies such as Aer Therapeutics, Corlytics, Equal1, Manna Drone Delivery, Output Sports, SuperNode and tech unicorn Wayflyer, to attract over €1.3 billion in funding and create thousands of jobs. We really appreciate this recognition and look forward to launching new innovative programmes and activities to support the next generation of start-ups with global ambitions".



Prof Jonathan Drennan

# SAFE STAFFING IN HOSPITALS: A NEW MODEL TO SAVE LIVES

**“We need more doctors and nurses”.**

It's a common call from both government and opposition politicians, as well as from frustrated voters. It isn't as simple as just adding more beds, however: properly determining safe staffing levels is a complex science.

Now, a team at UCD, led by Professor Jonathan Drennan, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, has developed a framework for safe nurse staffing in medical and surgical wards, and a second framework for emergency departments. These frameworks are not only reducing adverse events, including mortality, but also helping to lessen staff turnover and burnout, which can play a major role in addressing the nursing recruitment and retention crisis.

## SAFE STAFFING IN HOSPITALS: A NEW MODEL TO SAVE LIVES

### How did this all come about?

“When I previously worked at the University of Southampton, there was a major public inquiry into excess deaths at the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust,” says Professor Drennan.

“That inquiry identified staffing as a key issue. We know from this inquiry and years of research that poor staffing is related to higher patient mortality. This is particularly the case for nursing, as too few staff directly impacts their ability to monitor patients, provide quality care and to intervene in a timely manner.”

We know in Ireland that there are pressures on emergency departments and very high bed occupancy rates, some of the highest in Europe, says Professor Drennan.

“That puts huge pressure on the health services and, because it can’t be solved overnight, we need to ensure that we have staff to meet the level of demand. So, I worked with colleagues across a number of institutions, including UCD, UCC, the University of Southampton and the University of Technology Sydney, to carry out research on staffing levels. With funding from the Department of Health and the Health Research Board, we were able to develop a systematic approach to this problem.”

These included medical and surgical wards at hospitals in Beaumont, Drogheda and Loughlinstown, as well as emergency departments in Cork University Hospital, Tipperary University Hospital and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. Then, they carried out baseline data research before undertaking a number of interventions.

“For the first framework, we identified a systematic approach that looks at patient need, and how many nursing hours a patient in a given category needs,” Professor Drennan explains. “If, for instance, they are highly dependent and acutely ill, they may need six to seven nursing hours per day. If they are recovered and awaiting discharge, however, they may only need two to

three nursing hours per day. This then allows us to determine safe levels of staffing for that ward.”

The team used software systems to calculate nursing hours required, and also developed a system to ensure the correct ratio of registered nurses to healthcare assistants.

A key factor was ensuring that the nurse in charge of the ward did not take on any patient caseload, but instead was entirely supervisory and completely free to ensure that quality care was delivered. This was based on existing evidence that this approach leads to lower adverse outcomes and increased patient satisfaction.

For the second framework, which addressed patient needs in emergency settings, Drennan and the team collected triage data and assigned a number of nursing hours to each patient according to the urgency of their case.

Staffing levels have been an issue for healthcare systems across the world - so why has a solution only been developed now?

**“It might seem obvious, but it had not really been done in Ireland before,” says Professor Drennan. “Yes, clinicians and researchers had developed good estimates, but they were not based on a systematic approach. This systematic approach is now in place and is strongly welcomed by nursing staff, and the HSE.”**

Another key factor in improving outcomes is to ensure that the majority of care is provided by staff nurses, rather than agency nurses. This ensures continuity of care and reduces costs. “If, even on a day-to-day basis, a ward becomes extremely busy, the framework allows the nursing leadership to see it and flag the ward as requiring more staff,” says Professor Drennan.

The team have been able to measure the impact of the framework, and they have recorded

fewer adverse patient events, such as reductions in hospital-acquired pneumonias, reduced triage times and fewer patients leaving the emergency department without treatment.

“The introduction of a systematic approach also helps to prevent patients developing sepsis and reduces the need for intensive care. We have seen that all of this saves money – from research that we have carried out, approximately €700 per adverse patient event - and reduces the average length of a patient’s stay. If patients have to stay in hospital longer, as a result of an adverse outcome, it greatly impacts on their wellbeing. The framework has now been rolled out to all university hospitals in Ireland, it is moving to more regional hospitals,” says Professor Drennan.

Improving outcomes for patients reduces stress on nurses too and could help with recruitment and retention by reducing burnout and improving job satisfaction.

“The hospitals are fully behind it, and we receive great support from the Chief Nurse’s Office in the Department of Health,” says Professor Drennan. “The Department of Health has implemented it as national policy in medical and surgical wards, and emergency departments. The HSE have put structures in place to ensure its national implementation. We have just finished developing a similar framework for the nursing home sector, and are looking at how it could work in community and primary care settings

**“The research and framework have international ramifications, too: the teams have been invited to Denmark, Italy, Malta, Sweden and the UK to help inform their health systems to develop similar models. We believe this can save lives, and make lives better for healthcare staff, across the world.”**

### Key numbers

When these frameworks were implemented, what difference did they make to patients and clinicians?

#### First framework: medical and surgical wards

0.88% - decrease in adverse patient events and mortality

75.6% - levels of missed care before the framework was implemented

31.8% - levels of missed care after the framework was implemented

95% - the reduction in the use of agency staff to provide nursing care after the framework was implemented

€2,905 - saving per ward per month

€2,397 - the average cost of adverse events experienced by patients

#### Second framework: emergency departments

35% - decrease in time to triage after the framework was implemented

52% - decrease in the proportion of patients leaving without being seen

17% - decrease in waiting times

54% - job satisfaction among nurses before the framework was implemented

80% - job satisfaction among nurses after the framework was implemented

22% - decrease in spend on agency nurses after the framework was implemented





Dr Julie Morrissy robed in the Feminist Constitutional Futures Cloak and Dr Maebh Harding, UCD Sutherland School of Law.

## UCD College of Social Sciences and Law Cultural Trail

In conjunction with UCD Culture and Engagement, staff and students from the UCD College of Social Sciences and Law co-organised a Cultural Trail and event series that took place in early February. All events were organised to foster a strong sense of connection and belonging within UCD, to promote on-campus engagement for staff and students across all Colleges and to showcase our diverse and inclusive community.

Events in the programme included an international lunch to celebrate the diversity of the staff and student body that attracted more than 500 UCD staff and students to the Newman building. The historic public reading of the Irish constitution in UCD Sutherland School of Law which was the first time that there has been a durational reading of Bunreacht na hÉireann to consider the values within the founding document as a whole and reflect on its relevance to modern Ireland. This event was a collaboration with faculty, staff and law students who created a piece of performance art in conjunction with poet Dr Julie Morrissy around the Irish constitution which took place in the atrium.

Finally, graduate students from the UCD School of Psychology facilitated an interactive and inclusive workshop entitled *Interpretations of culture through the innovative Mmogo method*. All participants were equipped with modelling clay, sticks, and beads and open-ended questions which encouraged all participants to express their cultural perspectives and reflect on our culture within UCD.

## Dublin Port Company and UCD Collaborate on World-First Eco-Engineering Initiative

In late March, Dublin Port Company (DPC), in collaboration with UCD, announced a groundbreaking initiative aimed at enhancing biodiversity along the Great South Wall, located near Poolbeg in Dublin. This innovative project marks a significant milestone in the realm of eco-engineering, setting a new standard for sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Artificial structures such as seawalls and rock armour have long served as crucial protective measures for ports, harbours and marinas worldwide. However, conventional man-made structures often lack the biodiversity found in natural rocky shores, presenting challenges for marine ecosystems. Recognising this gap, UCD researchers partnered with DPC to pioneer a solution that merges ecological principles with engineering expertise.

At the heart of this initiative lies the deployment of large habitat units along the Great South Wall, a strategic location chosen for its potential to foster marine life. The utilisation of a natural topography design sourced from a shoreline in Ringaskiddy, Co Cork on habitat units of this size distinguishes these as a world-first in eco-engineering.

The design of these habitat units draws from a comprehensive study conducted as part of the Ecostructure project, in which Dublin Port played a pivotal role on the stakeholder steering committee. The study encompassed 32 natural rocky shores and 32 artificial shoreline sites across Ireland and Wales, evaluating both biological diversity and



(l-r) Caoimhe Morris; Dr Paul Brooks, School of Biology and Environmental Science; Eamon McElroy, Port Engineer at Dublin Port Company and Jennifer Coughlan, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.

physical topography. Leveraging advanced techniques such as photogrammetry, the project team crafted 3D models to inform the development of engineering-standard habitat units and wall panels.

Crucially, these habitat units integrate natural topography into eco-friendly concrete, reducing carbon footprint while maximizing biodiversity potential. Collaborating with industry partners CubEX and MODULAR Cubed, the project exemplifies a synergy between academic research and practical application.

Over the next two years, UCD researchers will conduct comprehensive monitoring to assess the efficacy of these habitat units in enhancing marine biodiversity. By studying a diverse array of species, including invertebrates and fish, the project aims to unlock valuable insights into the benefits of large-scale eco-engineering approaches.

At nearly 5km long, the Great South Wall was the longest seawall in the world when it was completed in 1795 after construction began in the 1720s. Though that title has since been taken by a seawall in South Korea, the Great South Wall remains one of the longest in Europe.

Dr Paul Brooks, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, commented, "This

represents a significant step forward in our understanding of eco-engineering concepts. By incorporating natural topographies into artificial structures, we have the potential to mitigate environmental impacts while promoting ecological resilience along the Great South Wall.

"This project has been seven years in the making and DPC have been with us every step of the way. The result you can now see along the Great South Wall is a world first and we're very excited to see it finally come to the fore. It would not be possible without the collaboration with Dublin Port, and we hope that continues long into the future."

Eamon McElroy, DPC Port Engineer, added, "With 8,000 ship arrivals every year, we must take great responsibility in looking after the environment around us. It is our policy to manage our obligations to the environment in a responsible manner and to take a sustainable approach to developing the port's business.

"The deployment of fish habitats along the Great South Wall, an iconic Dublin landmark, aims to enhance the biodiversity within the port estate itself. Through our joint efforts with UCD, we reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development and the preservation of marine ecosystems."

## ■ UCD Co-Organises Europe's Largest Transport Research Conference

**UCD proudly co-organised the Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2024 conference, hosted by the Department of Transport of Ireland and the European Commission in Dublin. TRA is Europe's foremost transport event, encompassing all modes and aspects of mobility.**

The conference occurs biennially in different European cities, aiming to align and foster cooperation among European, national, and regional research, innovation, and deployment actions in transport, including road, rail, water, and aviation. The prestigious event, themed 'Advancing Sustainable and Inclusive Mobility', spanned four days in Dublin and brought together distinguished guests, esteemed researchers, and leading industry professionals to define the future of transport. It also focuses on cross-modality and passenger/freight transport in urban and inter-urban settings.

The conference sought to enhance networking and clustering of Europe's research, innovation, and development capacity. Dr Ciaran McNally and Dr Beatriz Martinez-Pastor, UCD School of Civil Engineering, played pivotal roles in

the development of TRA2024. Dr McNally, as chair of the programme committee, led the organisation of scientific, technical and strategic sessions. This year's conference received over 1,200 abstracts, resulting in over 800 papers and 150 technical, special, and strategic sessions during the four-day event.

Dr Martinez-Pastor, coordinating a €1.5 million European project, led a consortium of 14 European organisations, including FEHRL, ECTRI, POLIS, EURNEX and TCD, to support all aspects of the conference organisation. The partners worked with key stakeholders to ensure the conference themes aligned with European policies.

TRA offers an unparalleled venue for researchers, policymakers, and industry representatives to collaborate and discuss how research and innovation can reshape the transport and mobility system. The conference provides a unique opportunity to learn about mobility trends across Europe, share industry achievements, and exchange best practices.



Picture of the TRA2024 organisers, including on the first row the four chairs and director of the TRA2024 conference (l-r): Dr Ciaran McNally, UCD School of Civil Engineering; Celine Crawford; John McCarthy; Dr Albert Daly, and Dr Beatriz Martinez-Pastor, UCD School of Civil Engineering.



## ■ St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre official launch event

**On 28 November 2023, St. Vincent's Healthcare Group and UCD School of Medicine launched the St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre in the Kevin Barry Gallery in the UCD Charles Institute, marking a collaborative effort between both parties.**

The primary objective of this joint venture is to seamlessly integrate the world-class patient care provided at the hospital with cutting-edge research and education conducted at the university. The shared vision is to usher in a transformative era in cancer care, significantly enhancing outcomes for patients.

Keynote speakers at event (l-r): Prof Michael Keane, Dean, UCD School of Medicine and Acting CEO at St Vincent's University Hospital; Dr David Fennelly, Clinical Director of St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre; Prof Orla Feely, UCD President; Prof Risteard O'Laoidhe, Director, National Cancer Control Programme and Prof William Gallagher, Scientific Director, St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre.



(l-r) Dr Andrew McCartan, Maeve O'Connell, Assoc Prof Georgina Ifrim, Dr Fatemeh Golpayegani, Celine Erkey, Kristy Stanley, Clara Zehe, Sneha Chhipa, Adesola Ojomo-Amaka, Baisah Adesanya, Prof Brian Rodriguez, Christine Coffey, Assoc Prof Tara McMorrow.

## Women in Science Mentoring Awards on International Women's Day

On International Women's Day, two female academics in the UCD College of Science, Assistant Professor Fatemeh Golpayegani and Associate Professor Georgina Ifrim, were honoured with UCD's College of Science Women in Science Mentoring Awards. These awards acknowledge mentors whose efforts have fostered encouragement and support for women, girls, and other underrepresented individuals within the UCD College of Science community. The awards were presented during a special ceremony at the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science on 8 March, 2024.

This is a commendable initiative spearheaded by Associate Professor Catherine Mooney, Vice-President for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in the College of Science.

## UCD One Health Centre: Trailblazing Research to Policy Implementation in Global Health

**In February 2024, UCD proudly launched the UCD One Health Centre, dedicated to addressing global health challenges by recognising the interconnectedness of people, animals, plants and their shared environment. Led from the College of Health and Agricultural Science by Dr Tony Holohan, Executive Director, and Dr Gerald Barry, Deputy Director, this innovative centre embodies a holistic approach, emphasising collaboration across sectors including government, academia, international organisations, civil society, and the private sector.**

The Centre's mission is to research and raise awareness about the One Health concept, which recognises that the health of humans, animals and the environment are inextricably linked and interdependent. This approach is crucial in combating both local and global challenges such as pandemics, obesity and antibiotic resistance. While One Health is widely accepted as a mindset, concept, and approach, its implementation faces significant hurdles, including a lack of understanding of how to operationalise the approach, insufficient training and research opportunities, and fragmented data and policy efforts.

The UCD One Health Centre aims to address these challenges by fostering interdisciplinary research, building professional networks, and offering comprehensive training and development programs. Dr Hans Henri P Kluge, World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, attended the launch, highlighting the centre as a "significant achievement and success story in the WHO European Region". He praised UCD's commitment to the One Health approach, underscoring its pivotal role in addressing health risks through comprehensive, cross-sectoral collaboration.

The World Health Organization sees UCD as a front-runner and part of the technical advisory group on One Health. As a collaborator of the WHO, the UCD One Health Centre will work with partners both in UCD and beyond to develop core competencies for the workforce, to lead and operationalise One Health, and to build policy frameworks that bring benefit to Ireland and the European Region.

The UCD One Health Centre is poised to become a national and global leader in developing and implementing One Health strategies. Its priorities encompass Research Excellence, Education and Training, Community Engagement and Outreach, Policy and Advocacy, and Building Capacity and Partnerships. The Centre's ongoing collaboration with the WHO has set the stage for UCD to apply to become a formal WHO collaborating centre, further solidifying its role in global health initiatives.

Currently, the UCD One Health Centre is working with the WHO on a mentorship program, contributing to a public health workshop for doctors in Ukraine, and supporting the Environmental Health Association of Ireland conference on One Health. Additionally,



One Health Centre Launch (l-r) Dr Gerald Barry, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine; Dr Tony Holohan, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences; Prof Orla Feely, UCD President; Dr Hans P. Kluge, WHO and Gabrielle Jacob, WHO.

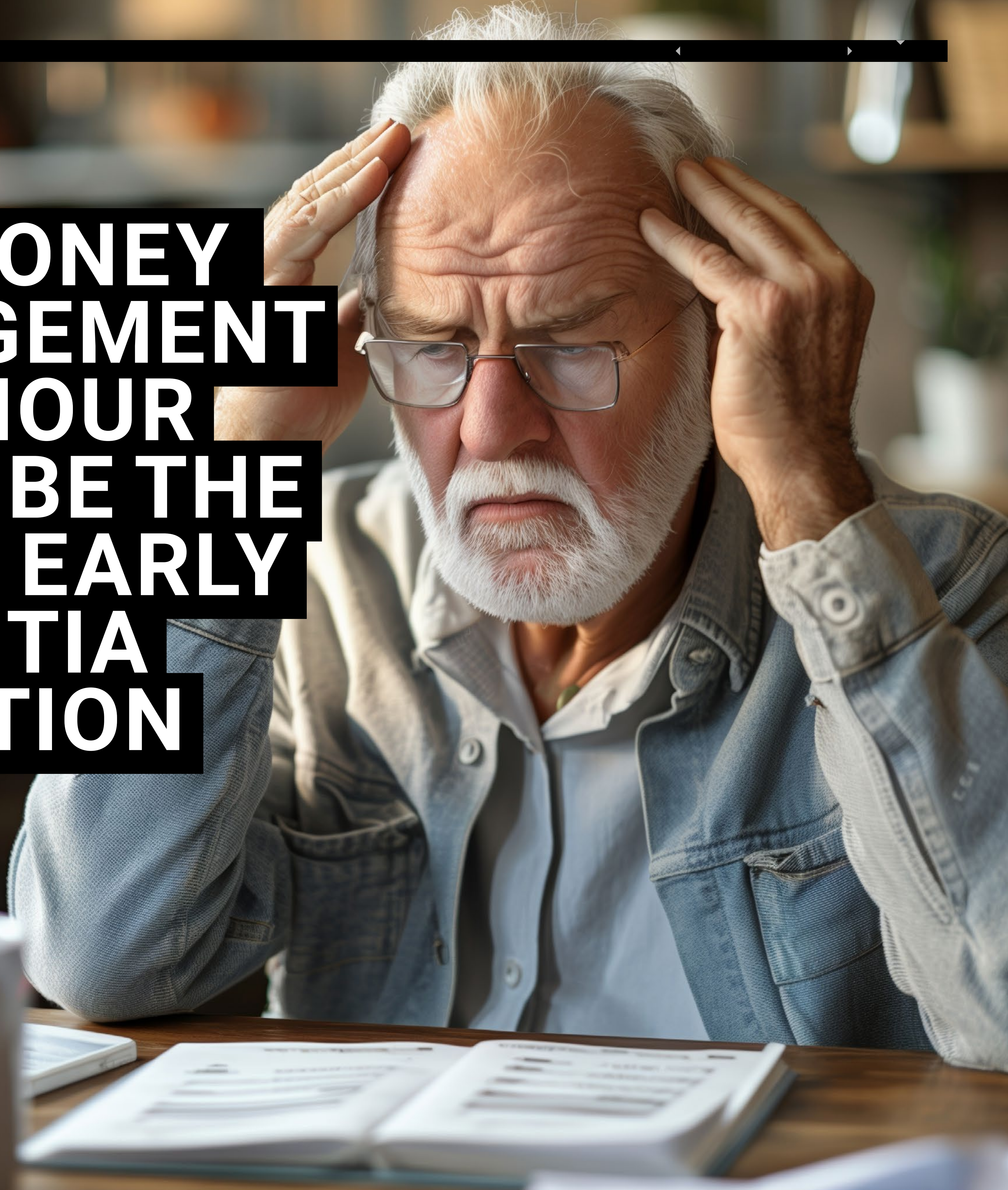
the centre has appointed Dr Niamh McLoughlin as its full-time executive director.

Looking ahead, the UCD One Health Centre will host a conference in early November 2024 to celebrate World One Health Day. Details will be available on [ucd.ie/onehealth](http://ucd.ie/onehealth) closer to the time. This conference, marking the third annual One Health event at UCD, promises to further advance the discourse on integrating One Health into health practices nationally and globally.



Prof Cal Muckley

# WHY MONEY MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOUR COULD BE THE KEY TO EARLY DEMENTIA DETECTION



**Professor Cal Muckley, financial economist and professor of operational risk in banking and finance at UCD's College of Business, is leading groundbreaking research that could revolutionise the early detection of dementia.**

His latest research, co-authored with Shivam Agarwal, NUI Maynooth, explores how financial behaviour, specifically money management difficulties (MMD), can serve as a crucial indicator of cognitive decline.

His interest in this area stems from his background in elder financial abuse detection. "We were thinking and talking a lot about what attracts a perpetrator of crime to an older person," he explained. "It's obvious that wealth accumulation is attractive to the perpetrator. But also, cognitive decline would attract them."

The work builds on recent research, published in the *Journal of Management Science*, showing that from age 60, there is a gradual decline in financial literacy. However, Muckley's work goes further, examining how specific financial behaviours might indicate the onset of dementia before a clinical diagnosis.

"There's greater credit delinquencies, [individuals are] not paying back loans, and credit scores are deteriorating in the lead period up to a diagnosis of dementia," Professor Muckley noted. This pattern suggests a period of high vulnerability for individuals before they receive a formal diagnosis.

**"[You] can see not only financial literacy becoming weaker in that period, but actually financial decisions costing the individuals, deteriorating their wealth before a diagnosis. You clearly have a real period of high vulnerability for people before that diagnosis,"** added the professor.

Financial institutions, he said, have a duty of care to protect people who are in vulnerable circumstances. But, often, they can't know who this might be.

"What we're doing is saying, well, this financial loss suffered by people, there's actually a silver lining here. If you pick it up early, you can actually detect that these people are in vulnerable circumstances, and you can try to protect them against their own mistakes, and against being

targeted for financial abuse as well."

The study draws on data from the US National Institute of Aging's Health and Retirement longitudinal study, analysing patterns of MMD in older adults and linking these patterns to subsequent dementia diagnoses.

The findings are compelling. Individuals with reported MMD were found to have a much higher likelihood of being diagnosed with dementia within four years compared to those without such difficulties. Specifically, 27.94% of individuals over 70 with MMD were diagnosed with dementia within the following four years, compared to only 6.01% without MMD.

The research revealed even more interesting results for single-person households. In this demographic, a significantly larger amount (32.18%) of individuals with MMD were diagnosed with dementia within four years.

Professor Muckley explained, "The reason we focus on people living alone is that we expect that someone living alone will have more clarity about their money management experience. If you've got somebody else [in your household], it may well be that that person is looking over your shoulder, and you might feel you've got no money management difficulties, but without that person, you may have very severe difficulties indeed that you could be oblivious to."

Simply put, removing this variable reduces measurement error and gets more accurate predictions.

Professor Muckley highlighted the significance: "The predictions of the models improved markedly and MMD remained in the top two of 13 lead indicators [of dementia]".

How were these predictions made? Professor Muckley's team employed advanced machine learning techniques, primarily using a model called XGBoost (Extreme Gradient Boosting). "[We're using] a mixture of decision trees," he explained. "I give [the model] a bunch of lead indicators and give it the clinical diagnosis outcomes, and it actually produces the tree. What is crucial here is that these decision trees are autonomously learned algorithms that can predict outcomes based on various input factors. In this case, the model identified MMD as the most important variable in predicting future dementia diagnosis, second only to age in some circumstances."

The implications of this research are far-reaching. As Professor Muckley pointed out, "Financial institutions are sitting on information that can be invaluable in respect to early stage detection."

This early detection could not only protect individuals from financial mistakes and abuse but also open doors to medical interventions.

**"There are new antibodies that have been licensed only in the last 18 months by the Food and Drug Administration [that] delay the progress of Alzheimer's disease by approximately 35%,"** he explained.

"So to detect people who are in early stage dementia is really important and to squander that information when it's under your nose is perhaps a bigger failure."

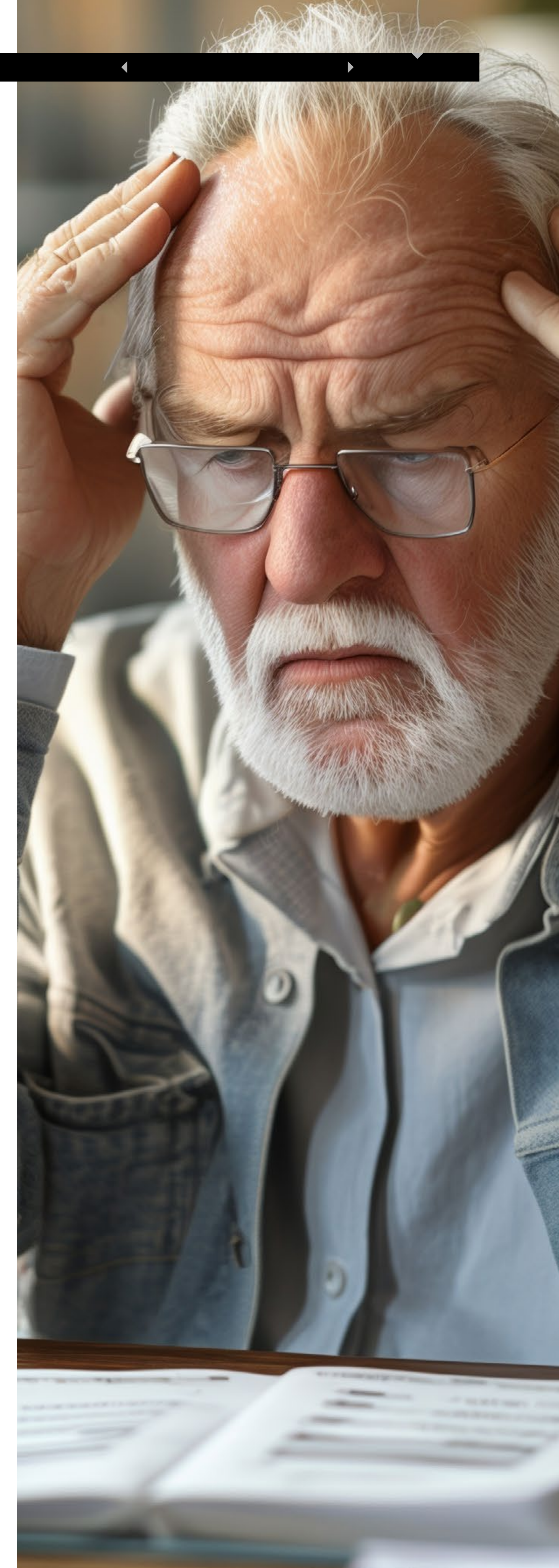
However, he acknowledged the ethical considerations of using financial data in this way. "The simplest approach is a scheme where people have to opt in," he stated, emphasising the importance of maintaining individual autonomy.

Muckley's research advocates for the deployment of an innovative, opt-in online cognitive health verification system informed by data from the bank-customer interface. This system could serve as a 'safety net,' providing early warnings and aiding in the transfer of financial control when necessary.

Looking ahead, he plans to further refine the research by further honing the concept of MMD. "Can we disaggregate money management difficulties and work out where the information is coming from? Is it coming from difficulties in decisions about pensions, or about paying utility bills, or about servicing loans?" These questions form the basis of his upcoming studies.

By harnessing the power of machine learning and the extensive data held by financial institutions, early detection and intervention strategies can potentially be improved, offering hope and protection to millions at risk of dementia. As Professor Muckley aptly puts it, "to squander this information would be tragic" when using it wisely could be transformative.

*Professor Cal Muckley was in conversation with Marie Boran, freelance technology journalist (BSc UCD 2022, DCU MSc 2012, MSc by Research [Insight Centre for Data Analytics, NUIG] 2015)*



Prof Geraldine Doyle receiving the 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Leader/ Emerging Leader Award at the National Diversity & Inclusion Awards 2024.



## ■ Professor Geraldine Doyle wins Diversity & Inclusion Leader/Emerging Leader Award

**In early February 2024, Professor Geraldine Doyle, UCD College of Business, was awarded the 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Leader/ Emerging Leader Award at the National Diversity and Inclusion Awards 2024. Eleven winners were recognised for their outstanding work with Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) across award categories covering Race & Ethnicity, Gender, LGBTQ+, Disability and more. Organised by the Irish Centre for Diversity, over 550 guests attended the event that is the only dedicated celebration and recognition of advances in D&I in Ireland.**

Professor Doyle was nominated by the Inclusive Business Club which is driven by the Executive MBA classes at UCD Smurfit School. An excerpt from the application reads, "Professor Doyle's leadership is defined by a trailblazing spirit, setting new standards of excellence and

inclusivity, advancing gender diversity and inclusion in the world of business education".

Professor Doyle said, "What an incredible honour to receive the Diversity and Inclusion Leader / Emerging Leader Award at the 2024 National Diversity and Inclusion Awards. To be nominated by our MBA students, who are leading our UCD Inclusive Business Club, was a special honour and it is a privilege to accept this award in recognition of our stellar achievements around all dimensions of diversity and inclusion within the UCD College of Business."

"None of this would have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of the large village that is the UCD College of Business and UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School community. Everyone came along this journey together, our faculty, professional staff, students, alumni, advisory board members and our University Management Team."

## ■ Portugeuse Carnation Revolution Celebration

**50 years after the 1972 Carnation Revolution in Portugal, the UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics celebrated the event with a discussion on 'Democracy Under Threat', co-hosted with the Embassy of Portugal to Ireland on 25 April 2024.**

Speakers included: Professor Colin Scott, Registrar and Deputy President; Associate Professor Síofra Pierse, Head of UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics; Professor

Regina Uí Chollatáin, Principal, UCD College of Arts and Humanities; Ambassador Bernardo de Lucena, Portuguese Ambassador to Ireland; Professor Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses, Maynooth University; Associate Professor Marie-Luce Paris, UCD Sutherland School of Law; and Associate Professor Thomas Däubler, UCD School of Politics and International Relations.

Three students from Teach na Gaeilge UCD played traditional Irish music to welcome guests to the George Moore Auditorium and included Ambassadors from a range of European and global countries including Portugal, France, Argentina and many others.

The speakers emphasised the importance of democracy in modern times, while also revisiting the precarious yet euphoric nature of the 1974 Portuguese revolution itself, as evoked by audience member and retired Irish Times journalist Paul Gillespie's account of writing about the event in the moment.



(l-r) Prof Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses, Maynooth University, Dr Thomas Däubler, School of Politics and International Relations, UCD, Assoc Prof Marie-Luce Paris Law, UCD.



Gaeltacht UCD tutors Jamie Ó Flannúra and Caoimhe Ní Mhaolagáin demonstrate some Irish dance steps in Guangzhou Dublin International College of Life Sciences and Technology.

## ■ Clár Cultúrtha Ghaeltacht UCD i Guangzhou na Síne

**Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture had the pleasure of sharing the Irish language and its associated culture with students in Guangzhou Dublin International College of Life Sciences & Technology (GDIC).**

I mí an Mhárta 2024, bhí deis ag Gaeltacht UCD an Ghaeilge agus an cultúr Gaelach a roinnt le mic léinn i gColáiste Idirnáisiúnta na nEolaíochtaí Beatha agus na Teicneolaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath (GDIC), Guangzhou na Síne. Sholáthair foireann Ghaeltacht UCD; Caoimhe Ní Mhaolagáin, Siobhán Ní Mhaolagáin, agus Jamie Ó Flannúra, teagascóirí oilte Gaeilge, atá ina n-Iluiriseoirí, damhsóirí agus díograiseoirí spóirt freisin, clár cultúrtha idirghníomhach Éireannach ar fhad seachtaine don 500 mac léinn ar champas álainn GDIC. I measc na ngníomhaíochtaí bhí ceol, damhsa, teanga agus spórt. Ba rannpháirtithe iontacha, díograiseacha

iad mic léinn GDIC a shealbhaigh an Ghaeilge gan stró, agus tá siad réidh anois le páirt a ghlacadh i seisiún amhránaíochta Gaeilge, le fonn a sheinm ar an bhfeadóg stáin, nó le dul amach ag damhsa i gcéilí Gaelach. Léirigh roinnt daltaí cumas eisceachtúil san iománaíocht agus sa pheil gaelach freisin!

A bhuíochas leis an bhfáilte a chuir comhghleacaithe in GDIC roimh an bhfoireann, bhí deis ag an bhfoireann féin cuairt a thabhairt ar chuid de na suíomhanna is iontaí in Guangzhou. Reachtladh an togra seo faoin nDéan Idirnáisiúnta agus Propast don tSín, an tOllamh Paul Fanning le tacaíocht ó Agnieszka King in Oifig Chomhcholáistí na Síne UCD. Ba é seo an dara huair ag an Ionad, atá mar chuid de phunann Rannpháirtíochta Domhanda UCD, an clár cultúrtha a sholáthar sa tSín; in 2019 bhí sé de phléisiúr aige cuairt a thabhairt ar Choláiste Idirnáisiúnta Iompair Bhaile Átha Cliath Chang'an (CDIC), Xí'an. "Is cosúil go bhfuil suim ar leith ag mic léinn Síneacha i gcultúr na hÉireann, rud a bhaineann leis an meas atá acu ar a n-oidhreacht agus a dtráidisiúin shaibhir féin, seans", a dúirt Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Stiúrthóir Ghaeltacht UCD, "táimid ag súil go mór filleadh ar an tSín le aithne a chur ar mhic léinn BDIC an tríú Comhcholáiste de chuid UCD sa tSín.

## ■ ATXA Therapeutics Founder Receives the 2024 NovaUCD Innovation Award

The recipients of NovaUCD's annual innovation awards, which highlight successes made in areas of knowledge transfer, consultancy, entrepreneurship and the promotion of an innovation culture, by members of the UCD research, innovation and entrepreneurial community, were presented by Professor Orla Feely, UCD President, at an event held in the UCD University Club.

The 2024 NovaUCD Innovation Award, which recognises excellence in innovation or of successes achieved in the commercialisation of UCD research, or other intellectual activity, over several years, was presented to Professor Therese Kinsella, CEO and founder of ATXA Therapeutics.

ATXA Therapeutics is a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company committed to the advancement of innovative, life-changing treatments for cardiopulmonary diseases. The company was founded by Professor Kinsella, a biochemist and a leading expert in the field of prostanoid biology, in 2015 as a spin-out from the UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science based on over 20 years of research carried out by her and her team at the UCD Conway Institute.

The company's focus is the development of its lead candidate drug, NTP42, for the treatment of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH). PAH is a devastating disease of the lungs and heart with an urgent unmet need for new improved therapies. While the condition itself is classed as a rare or orphan disease, affecting 15-50 patients per million of the population, it carries an enormous health burden with an annual spend in excess of \$8 billion globally on prescribed medicines alone in 2023.

ATXA Therapeutics, headquartered at the UCD Conway Institute, has raised over €17 million in funding (equity and grant) to date, and Professor Kinsella and ATXA have a patent estate of 16 granted patents, in Europe, USA, Canada, Japan, and Australia, with numerous others filed globally protecting their drugs out to the mid-2040s.



Pictured are Prof Therese Kinsella, CEO and founder of ATXA Therapeutics and Prof Orla Feely, UCD President.

The other 2024 NovaUCD Innovation Awardees are:

**2024 NovaUCD Invention of the Year Award:** Associate Professor Nan Zhang, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

**2024 NovaUCD Licence of the Year Award:** Go Eve, a joint UCD and Imperial College London spin-out company.

**2024 NovaUCD Spin-out of the Year Award:** EpiCapture, a UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science spin-out company.

**2024 NovaUCD Founder of the Year Award:** John Byrne, CEO and founder of Corlytics.

**2024 NovaUCD Consultancy of the Year Award:** Professor Fiona Timmins, UCD Dean and Head of UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems.

**2024 NovaUCD Innovation Champion of the Year Award:** Professor Nick Holden, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering.



## ■ Athena SWAN Silver Award for the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

**The UCD School of Veterinary Medicine has been awarded a Silver Athena SWAN award for demonstrating its commitment to improving gender equality for those working and studying in the School.**

This is recognition of the hard work put in by staff and students in creating an environment where equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) is paramount. This work has been led by the School's EDI and Athena SWAN committee, co-chairs Associate Professor Cliona Skelly and Professor Stephen Gordon and Project Coordinator Eimear Burkley. This is the second departmental Silver Award in UCD, following the success of colleagues in the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science in 2023.

Following assessment by peer review panels made up of colleagues working across the Irish higher education sector, twelve awards were conferred in the latest assessment round for Athena SWAN Ireland. An awards ceremony is expected to take place in November which will include many of the lessons and experiences of the awardees in the Athena SWAN submissions.



*The four most recent PINNACLE graduates (l-r): Neha Munir from Pakistan, Libymol Augustine, Jyoti Thomas and Hema Barretto from India.*

## ■ UCD School of Education welcomes back PINNACLE students

**On 24 May 2024, the UCD School of Education welcomed present and previous PINNACLE students to the UCD campus for the second PINNACLE summer school. Led by Professor Deirdre Raftery and Professor Marie Clarke, the PINNACLE project responds in a high-impact way to the Sustainable Development Goals 4 & 5, Quality Education and Gender Equality respectively. The aim of the project is to develop and support grassroots leadership and mentoring skills among women working in schools and in education communities in the Global South.**

The PINNACLE project began in 2018 with a pilot phase, which resulted in a total of seven women teachers completing the one-year full-time MA (Ed) at UCD over a period of three years. Evaluation of the PINNACLE Pilot project indicated that online delivery of this course, over a longer period, would best suit women teachers in India and Pakistan. In response to this, a three-year part-time online MA (Mentoring, Leading and Global Learning) was designed specifically for a new PINNACLE group.

Twelve applicants were awarded full scholarships to the new MA and were invited to UCD for the first PINNACLE summer school, taking place over seven weeks in June and July of 2022. During this time, they were prepared for their online studies which included English language support at the UCD Applied Language Centre. They began their MA (Ed) Degree in September 2022. Having completed two years, they were again invited to attend the second PINNACLE summer school which took place in May 2024. This programme was designed

to prepare them for their research study which will be completed by the students in their home country of India or Pakistan over the coming year.

Working with the Presentation Northeastern Division in Ireland, PINNACLE has supported the professional development of women teachers in provinces in Pakistan, India North, and India South, with a particular focus on leadership and mentoring. These areas are especially important in the Global South to ensure that sustainable models of teacher development are supported in order to build leadership capacity for the future. To date, the project has provided scholarships for 19 teachers in India and Pakistan, who provide mentoring to other women teachers within 41 schools that employ 1,375 teachers, with a total enrolment of 39,675 students. Other supports include small-group training in local contexts, ongoing professional development for previous PINNACLE graduates, and the publication of bespoke handbooks and resources for use on the grounds in differing educational contexts



# ADHD IN ADULTS



Professor Jessica Bramham

“Diagnosis makes a difference because people with ADHD may have absorbed a message that they are just lazy, or stupid, having a knock-on impact on their confidence throughout life.”

**When Professor Jessica Bramham first started working with adults who have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), she was involved in three assessments a month in the UK’s national ADHD service.**

That was in London’s Maudsley hospital in the early 2000’s. By the time she left that role in 2007, the numbers had climbed to ten assessments a week. The number of adults being diagnosed with ADHD has risen ever since. In the past five years, however, growing awareness of ADHD has sparked a further surge in the numbers presenting for assessment and support.

# ADHD IN ADULTS continued...

Now, Professor Bramham has played a role in the development of *ADHD in Adults*, a new free app from the HSE which provides reliable information and support.

She has also been a key player in developing the Understanding and Managing Adult ADHD Programme (UMAAP), an online intervention for adults with ADHD. The programme was developed by ADHD Ireland, a charity that supports people with ADHD and their families and carers, the UCD School of Psychology and the HSE National Clinical Programme for ADHD in Adults. Additional joint research by these organisations revealed that up to one in five adults with ADHD in Ireland has attempted to take their own lives in the past.

“When I first started in my role as a neuropsychologist, I didn’t know much about ADHD,” Professor Bramham says. “But I found it really rewarding to work with adults who have ADHD and saw how they made hugely positive changes in their lives following a diagnosis. Many people wrongly believed that ADHD really only affected children and was something that they would grow out of. In reality, the challenges associated with ADHD changes for adults, for example, they may no longer struggle to stay still, but still feel an inner restlessness. With support and understanding of who they are, I saw these adults - a marginalised group for some time - begin to flourish.”

ADHD Ireland estimates that up to 5% of the population meet the diagnostic criteria.

“Social media has led to growing awareness of ADHD,” says Professor Bramham. “Over time, this has led to a reduction in stigma, and greater acceptance. Diagnoses rose in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, too. As people were at home, they were away from the structure and scaffolding that may have helped them manage their ADHD. They had to be self-motivated at home by themselves and struggled to get organised

and finish tasks.

“Diagnosis makes a difference because people with ADHD may have absorbed a message that they are just lazy, or stupid, having a knock-on impact on their confidence throughout life.

“An adult diagnosis can come with a degree of grief, as they wonder what life could have been had it been picked up earlier. But, for most, diagnosis brings understanding, self-awareness and relief,” she says.

However, parents, adults with ADHD, and advocacy groups have all reported difficulty in securing an assessment, which is required should a person with ADHD decide to take medication to manage their condition. This is the context in which both UMAAP and the *ADHD in Adults* app were both launched and developed.

“UMAAP has been well-resourced and, because the psychologists working on it have ADHD themselves, they have a strong connection with the participants,” Professor Bramham says.

“As for the app, it provides information for people as they await diagnosis or services and it helps them to better understand themselves. Even people without ADHD can benefit from it, not only for information but through useful self-help exercises. It can be used by people with or without a diagnosis.”

But there are so many apps for ADHD out there, all promising to change lives. So what makes this one any different?

“There are so many myths on the internet and on social media, that we wanted to develop a credible app that was based on reliable, peer-reviewed evidence. Extensive academic research and verification went into its creation, with the results published in a peer-reviewed article, [What adults with ADHD want to know: A Delphi consensus study on the psychoeducational needs of experts by experience.](#)

“The app is also informed by the real experiences of people with ADHD, who were instrumental in advising us of their needs and testing the app to see how valuable it was for them. Some health apps launch with fanfare and then quickly become outdated when the content isn’t changed, but we are always tweaking this to make it more accessible. It is refined with the user in mind. And, crucially, the support of the HSE means that this app is free.”

Professor Bramham didn’t work alone. One of her PhD students, Christina Seery, was heavily involved from the outset, developed the materials and evaluated the outcomes. From the HSE, Dr Margo Wrigley and Fiona O’Riordan poured their energy in. And, from ADHD Ireland, Ken Kilbride and Nicola Coss had a keen eye for what their service users needed and wanted.

Many of these experts also contributed to a paper evaluating the UMAAP programme. Their research paper, [The understanding and managing adult ADHD programme: A qualitative evaluation of online psychoeducation with acceptance and commitment therapy for adults with ADHD](#), was published in July 2023 in the Journal of Behavioural Context Science.

It found that adults with ADHD may benefit from acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), and that it increased their self-awareness and self-acceptance. The research also showed that the materials on this programme could be overwhelming, so the team worked to simplify them.

“It is an ongoing process”, according to Professor Bramham. “We are currently working on adapting the UMAAP programme for different cohorts, including third-level students and new mothers. Academics like me write so many papers on valuable topics, but they sit on a shelf. Working on this, however, is a joy: I can see the difference it has made.”

## What is ADHD?

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a genetic and long-term condition that can affect learning and behaviour.

People with ADHD may experience both a lack of focus and, on the other hand, a hyperfocus that can help achieve great results at work. They may struggle with emotional regulation, but they can also be highly creative. They can have trouble concentrating and be distractable, which can be seen as laziness, but equally they can be extremely energetic. And they can be impulsive and have difficulties with self-regulation.

If all of this appears somewhat contradictory, it can be because people with ADHD can sometimes swing between different ends of the same spectrum.

## University for All Symposium

Members of the UCD community and colleagues from across higher and further education gathered together for the University for All Symposium in May 2024. The annual event known for showcasing innovative examples of inclusive practice and Universal Design (UD), this year held special significance as UCD launched two exciting additions to the Access sector. Dr Bairbre Fleming, Director of Access and Lifelong Learning, opened proceedings with the Director's Welcome and hosted the event. Professor Colin Scott, UCD Registrar and Deputy President, launched 'Unlocking Inclusion', the second edition of our Toolkit for Inclusive Higher Education. This publication builds upon the original toolkit while maintaining its premise of offering practical guidance and benchmarks for UD implementation across the four pillars of an inclusive campus.

The UCD Access and Lifelong Learning team were joined by our partners in AHEAD to launch 'Beyond the Classroom', a digital badge in Universal Design for higher and further education professionals outside of teaching roles. This badge has been a longstanding necessity in the sector and was developed with wide consultation and input from the higher and further

education sectors. Dr Bairbre Fleming, project lead on the Badge development, emphasised that the Badge offered parity of esteem for professional staff and recognised those working in the 'third space'.

The event featured Sarah Diedro Jordão's keynote address on the role of Belonging in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion movements. As summarised



Dr Jennifer Doyle, Head of ALL Operations Flexible Learning; Fiona Sweeney, Head of Outreach, Engagement & Transition; Dr Lisa Padden, Deputy Director of Access and Lifelong Learning; Prof Colin Scott, Registrar and Deputy President; Sarah Diedro Jordão; Dr Bairbre Fleming, Director Of Access & Lifelong Learning; Daniel Elliott, Programme Manager and Kathryn Orr, Pathways to the Professions Project Officer.

by Dr Lisa Padden, Sarah's framing of belonging as the opportunity to be entirely and unapologetically oneself in a space, the thought-provoking keynote encouraged attendees to collaborate and discuss their biggest hopes and limitless solutions for progressing inclusivity in UCD. Examining the reasons for which Diversity, Equity,

Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) movements may stagnate or fail in large institutions, Sarah encouraged attendees to treat one another with kindness and respect, and to reflect on why we pursue social justice initiatives, our roles within them and the benefits of embracing diversity within our DEIB movements.

The afternoon session showcased how the University for All community has thrived within UCD over the last year. Members of the Faculty Partnership Programme, the Professional Staff Partnership Programme and the Student Partners demonstrated how they have advocated for equity and change in their respective fields.

## Dr Sandra Collins appointed as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Women's Representation

In early March 2024, Minister Catherine Martin celebrated International Women's Day with the establishment of an Advisory Committee on the Representation of Women and Women's Stories. Dr Sandra Collins, UCD University Librarian, was appointed as Chair of the Advisory Committee.



Dr Collins was formerly Director of the National Library of Ireland 2015-2022, and Director of the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI). Her career

includes leadership roles in research, industry and public service, with prior positions in Royal Irish Academy, Science Foundation Ireland, Ericsson telecommunications, and Dublin City University.

She told UCD Today: "This Governmental Advisory Committee was established by Minister Catherine Martin to consider and make recommendations to help the Government highlight most effectively the achievements, experiences, and

voices of women, in the context of our National Cultural Institutions and the National Collections. We are charged with identifying gaps in the representation of women and women's stories in the national collections, and identifying opportunities to address omissions, for example through acquisitions, exhibitions and educational programmes, and a dedicated presentation of women's stories or women's museum. Importantly, we are taking an inclusive approach with due attention to historically marginalised women, including for example Traveller women, women with disabilities, and LGBTI+ women.

"I was asked to Chair the committee by Minister Martin and I was delighted to say yes. I had just completed my service on the Government's Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations, which had provided guidance and advice to the Government for a very successful decade-long programme of commemoration, so it was a great time to take on a new national responsibility.

This new committee also has a personal resonance for me, having spent much of my career as the 'only woman in the room' in fields such as mathematics and engineering research. In my last role as Director of the National Library of Ireland, I introduced our first EDI policy and we found that contemporary donations related to men outnumbered donations related to women by more than 5 to 1. There are huge structural and systemic gaps in the representation of women, and I

look forward to working with Committee members on this important and challenging task.

"UCD academics have played an important role in highlighting the achievements and experiences of women throughout history and I'm pleased that UCD colleague Assistant Professor Mary McAuliffe is on the committee too. We will undertake a public consultation, and this is important to ensure everyone will have a chance to contribute. There is a wealth of wisdom and experience for us to draw on."

The committee includes members from national cultural institutions in Ireland and abroad, historians, experts in gender and equality studies, representatives from the National Women's Council of Ireland and from relevant Government departments, and those with a range of other experiences and expertise.



Prof James Lyng, Dr Ajay Menon and Bernie Fitzpatrick, promoters of SusBioME, a greentech start-up emerging from the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science pictured at the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science.

## 2024 VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme

**SusBioME, an emerging greentech start-up, has been announced as the overall winner of the 2024 UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme. SusBioME is developing technology for use in the anaerobic digestion process to increase renewable gas yields from biomass. The annual VentureLaunch Programme, which is run by NovaUCD, aims to support the creation and launch of sustainable and profitable new start-ups emerging from UCD.**

Renewable gas from anaerobic digestion is key for energy security and sustainability. In the anaerobic digestion process organic feedstocks, including wastes, are digested, and turned into biogas or biomethane, which can be used exactly like natural gas. However, a major bottleneck limiting renewable gas production is the low digestibility of feedstock used in the anaerobic digestion process which leads to unrealised gas yields and low operational efficiency.

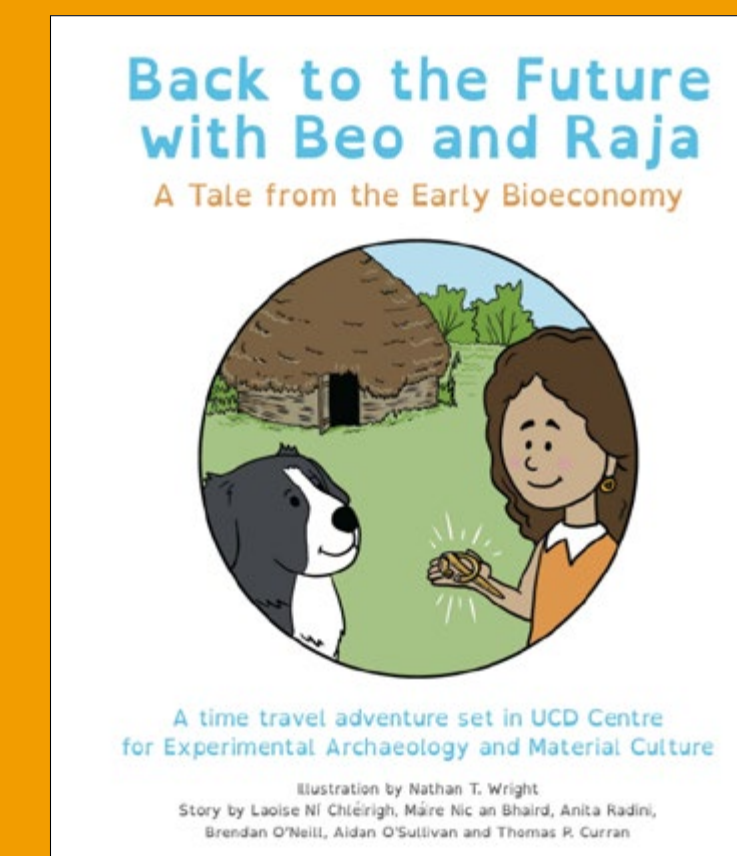
To address this problem SusBioME, a start-up emerging from the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, is developing modular, plug-in disruptive electro-processing technologies to make feedstocks more biodigestible. As a platform technology it can be applied to a wide range of feedstocks and bioprocesses. By the direct applications of electric fields, the SusBioME technology physically disrupts feedstocks, which rapidly and very efficiently make them more biodigestible leading to gas yield improvements of up to 30% for renewable gas producers along with reduced operational costs and increased revenues.

The members of the SusBioME team are, Dr Ajay Menon, who completed the VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme, Professor James Lyng, Norman Maloney and Bernie Fitzpatrick.

The main objective of the UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme is to equip participants with the knowledge, skills and understanding that will be required to work as part of a team leading a new commercial venture.

## Back to the Future with Beo and Raja – A Tale from the Early Bioeconomy

Following the success of the 'Finding Beo' comic featuring a girl called Beo and her loyal dog Raja, a sequel *Back to the Future with Beo and Raja – A Tale from the Early Bioeconomy* was officially launched in March 2024 at UCD Centre for Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture (CEAMC) by Peter Burke TD, then Minister of State with responsibility for European Affairs and Defence.



Cover of the Back to the Future with Beo and Raja – A Tale from the Early Bioeconomy.

The comic was a collaboration between the BioBeo Horizon Europe project coordinated by Associate Professor Tom Curran, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, UCD School of Archaeology's CEAMC, Dr Brendan O'Neill's Cultural Landscapes and Social Spaces (CLaSS) project and the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education at Maynooth University. Funding was also provided by UCD Institute of Food and Health and BiOrbic, Bioeconomy SFI Research Centre. The comic explores how people in early medieval Ireland lived with their environment, with a special emphasis on hazel woodland management and house building, amongst other things (flax for linen), and the range of animals, birds and insects that existed then. The ancient sport of hurling is also featured. The comic is part of a suite of BioBeo bioeconomy educational resources including animated videos, board games, newsletter, and virtual/augmented reality.

The launch of the comic coincided with an Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) at Maynooth University involving student teachers from BioBeo partners, and preceded the project flagship event, the BioBeo Festival held in Brussels. The festival aim was to bring bioeconomy closer to education and was created as a satellite event of the EU Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival. It was a vibrant day full of fascinating workshops, interesting lectures, live music, comedy, and animation.

The comic can be downloaded here ([English](#)) and ([Irish](#)). Black and white versions are also available for colouring. Further resources including newsletter, podcast and videos can be found on the BioBeo [website](#).

## ■ Unveiling 500 Years of Faith: *The Oxford History of British and Irish Catholicism*

**The five volumes of the ‘Oxford History of British and Irish Catholicism’ covering the years 1530-2021 began life as an idea hatched in a courtyard near the Colosseum in Rome in 2018.**

Appropriately, it had its final launch in St Isidore’s Irish Franciscan College Rome (founded 1625) on 12 April 2024. The work was commissioned, overseen and edited by Professor John McCafferty, UCD School of History and Dr James Kelly, Durham University. It was a sustained recovery of the shared histories of Ireland’s and Britain’s Catholics since Henry VIII first broke with the Papacy right up to the Synodality process begun by Pope Francis. Drawing on the contributions of over 80 authors who produced between them over 1,500 printed pages, it deliberately emphasises the realities of life for the Catholics of both islands in a long arc from initial fracture to proscription to relief, Emancipation (1829), overflowing growth through to more recent decline and renewed multiculturalism.

At the Dublin launch in the Museum of Literature Ireland in December 2023, both UCD President, Professor Orla Feely and former UCD President, Dr Art Cosgrove spoke of the links between John Henry Newman’s original Catholic University, intended for students from both islands, and the work’s emphasis on the recovery of a vigorous lay experience which mediated between national

identities in Ireland and Britain and the Catholic Church’s increasingly global presence. This theme was taken up again at Notre Dame’s London campus, off Trafalgar Square where the editors did a public interview for a capacity crowd on the challenges of trying to engage with every aspect of religious practice from rosary beads to pilgrimages to the endless process of translation of transcendent ideas into spaces ranging from domestic kitchens to vast new-build cathedrals.

The Catholic Church is a global one, yet it is so often studied and understood in terms of its local and national manifestations. Ranging across England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales over almost five centuries allowed all sorts of new discoveries and new linkages. For example, the role of women in the life of the church has come into much sharper focus. Catholics, even before the Emancipation of 1829, were drivers of cultural, economic, political and social life on both islands and integral to their intertwined histories. Art, architecture, music, language and material objects were all affected by the spirituality and theology of the Catholic Church. In turn, Irish and British Catholics modified Rome’s thinking on everything from the definition of the Immaculate Conception to relationships with secular power to religious life, especially that of women.

The ‘Oxford History of British and Irish Catholicism’ is expressly



Pictured (l-r) at the launch was Archbishop Dermot Farrell of the Dublin Archdiocese; Professor John McCafferty, UCD School of History and Professor James Kelly, University of Durham.

designed to be a work of enduring reference but it is also intended to provoke new research and reflection on the largest active Christian confession across the UK and Ireland. It was appropriate then to end the journey at St Isidore’s Rome in the place where in 1632 the Franciscan Luke Wadding of Waterford succeeded in persuading the Catholic Church to make 17 March, St Patrick’s Day, a universal feast, one to be celebrated all over the world.

## ■ UCD Humanities Institute Launches ‘Landings: Art after Extractivism’

**On 20 May, the UCD Humanities Institute launched its first ever art exhibition with Professor Katherine Robson Brown, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin, Principal, UCD College of Arts and Humanities, Professor Anne Fuchs, Institute Director, project participants, project artists and some 70 guests. ‘Landings: Art after Extractivism’ ran from 20-25 May and exhibited works by artists who had participated in the Institute-led international research project on Post-Extractivist Legacies and Landscapes.**

Funded by the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes and the Andrew Mellon Foundation from 2022-2024, this project explored former sites of mining in Ireland, Germany, Estonia, South Africa, Oceania and the Gulf Coast of the United States through a rich network of local, national, and international partnerships. A central plank of the project was the inclusion



Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact Prof Kate Robson Brown looking at the Postcard Project.

of artists and activists in a transdisciplinary dialogue spanning art practice, activism, anthropology, history, literary studies, environmental humanities, bio-archaeology, and economics.

Five artists responded to the complex legacies of oil shale mining (Estonia), peat extraction (Ireland), coal and gold mining

(South Africa) in different media. ‘Landings: Art after Extractivism’ showcased twelve oil paintings by Judy Carroll Deeley, the project artist, who employed different palettes to capture her experience of mining sites in Eastern Estonia, Ireland and South Africa, delicately balancing between the eerie beauty of the mine lands and the damage they do to the environment.

Dr Sarah Comyn and Dr Katherine Fama, both UCD School of English, Drama and Film, showed their co-produced Postcard Exchange project; the small scale of postcard monoprints, drawings and watercolours encouraged project participants to articulate their responses to the various site visits. The postcards were in conversation with polaroids and larger photographs taken during the site visits. Exhibition guests were also invited to write back to sites and artworks on postcard reprints in the gallery.

A short animation film entitled ‘Ntate’ by Dr Linda Mbeki, Cambridge University, and co-produced with Ali Aschman and Alex Widdoson, addressed the human cost of mining in South Africa. For Professor Robson Brown, this exhibition was “exemplary of the visionary collaborations between academics, artists and practitioners” that all disciplines can benefit from, a sentiment echoed by Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin who praised the Humanities Institute as a place where “creative energy and ideas flourish” through “formal and informal transdisciplinary engagement”.



Pictured at the launch (l-r) are: Tim Wray, Director of UCD Smurfit Executive Development; Simon Harris TD, Taoiseach and Leader of Fine Gael and Prof Tony Brabazon, Dean of UCD College of Business.

## UCD Smurfit Executive Development Professional Diploma in Aviation Finance

**Simon Harris, Taoiseach and former Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, launched the new UCD Smurfit Executive Development Professional Diploma in Aviation Finance. The new nine-month, part-time programme is the first of its kind both in Ireland and globally, and is aimed at managers and leaders in the aviation leasing and associated sectors who wish to improve their knowledge of aviation financing.**

The program leverages UCD Smurfit School's status as the premiere academic research and teaching centre for aviation leasing and finance, both in Ireland and globally. It aims to

further strengthen Ireland's leading position as the number one hub for the sector internationally by enhancing the skills of the professionals working within the industry.

The Diploma will support the industry in maintaining and enhancing Ireland's position as the leading industry and talent hub by developing and retaining existing top talent as well as attracting new business talent to the sector.

Ranked 35th globally by the Financial Times for Open Enrolment Programmes, the new offering by UCD Smurfit Executive Development will build on the expertise of world-leading faculty and top-ranked programmes. Participants on the Professional Diploma in Aviation Finance programme will acquire a detailed understanding of the financial processes associated with the aviation finance sector including suitable risk assessment and aircraft asset management, accounting issues, financing and credit enhancement, leasing developments and insurance applications. There will also be a substantial focus on sustainability issues and how finance can support the sector's net-zero targets.

## Muses@UCD

Last autumn saw UCD Classical Museum become the atmospheric venue for a series of evening events funded by an *After Hours at the Museum* grant from the Night-Time Economy Support Scheme of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Named for the Muses, Classical goddesses of the Arts, the wide-ranging programme of six free events was designed to bring new audiences into the Museum while showcasing some of UCD's talent and expertise. The opening event was a drawing workshop led by artist Genevieve Harden that allowed participants at all levels of expertise and enthusiasm to find inspiration in the collection. There were two contrasting musical performances: collaborative vocal group Chordú/Ardú provided an a cappella performance, while Dr Peter Moran, UCD School of Music was accompanied by Julie Kavanagh and Sergio Milano in a recreation of ancient Greek music.

The performance was held at the UCD Classical Museum and included a talk by Dr Bridget Martin, UCD School of Classics about ancient Greek tragedy, the original venue for such musical compositions. The tradition of storytelling was brought to life by Candlelit Tales, who gave a spellbinding performance weaving ancient Irish and Greek myth into a vibrant tapestry of adventure, surrounded by scenes of heroes and monsters on Greek vases. This coincided with Halloween and was preceded by Dr Kelly Fitzgerald, Head of UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore, talking about the traditional festival of Samhain. Poetry was well represented also, and a highlight of the series was a reading by internationally renowned Irish poets Theo Dorgan and Paula Meehan.

In an evening facilitated by Associate Professor Lucy Collins, UCD School of English, Drama and Film, both poets revealed their deep connections to Greece and spoke of the influence of its myths, heritage and landscape on their work. The second poetry event was a world premiere: the first live performance of Dr Eireann Lorsung's multivocal work *An Archaeology*, with a cast

of UCD students and directed by Dr Jeanne Tiehan, UCD School of English, Drama and Film. The Museum was at capacity for all events, and the School hopes to run another series after the summer. UCD Classical Museum is open to visitors every week, both for casual drop-ins and pre-arranged group visits.



Theo Dorgan, Irish poet and lecturer, and Paula Meehan, Irish poet and screenwriter, perform a reading of their works to an attentive audience



An a cappella performance by Chordú/Ardú

## ■ Hope Fest: A music and wellness event for those experiencing homelessness

**Hope Fest took place in May 2024 at the Iveagh Gardens, Dublin 2. Hope Fest is an annual wellness and music event for those experiencing homelessness in Dublin, run by students and staff of UCD, in collaboration with the Dublin Lions Club and over 30 homeless services across Dublin. This 'mini festival' aims to provide those experiencing homelessness with a sense of community and belonging.**

This year there were over 460 guests in attendance, with many families present, who were able to avail of a range of services from haircuts, chiropody, first aid, yoga and reiki, while the children's zone had games, colouring, facepainting and balloon making. Live music was also provided by the UCD Community Choir, Medlife Crisis and Vinny Lyons, himself a member of the homeless community.

"Hope Fest would not be possible without the support of volunteers from across the UCD community," said Theresa O'Leary, UCD in the Community. "This event is all about giving



Members of the UCD Community Choir with Theresa O'Leary from UCD in the Community.

dignity to people experiencing homelessness and providing them with a sense of community and belonging. The feedback from the homeless services has been incredible, and it has become a highlight of the summer for many of their clients."

This event grew out of many conversations around how UCD could support the homeless community in a real and meaningful way, while providing an opportunity for staff and student volunteers to engage with the wider community in a mutually beneficial way.

"Hope Fest is all about creating a special, welcoming day for our guests. Along with the live music, games and entertainment, we also provide hot meals, refreshments, and vital services like

haircuts, chiropody and first aid. It's a really unique example of how community-university partnerships can really change the lives of others," John Sheehy, Dublin Lions Club and Hope Fest committee member.

The Hope Fest committee are very grateful to the volunteers from UCD, Dublin Lions Club, Perrigo and Tiglin, who gave their time to the event; all those who provided the wellness services; and all the companies who provided the infrastructure, security, and food. The event could not run without the continuous support of the Civil Defence, An Garda Síochána and the Office of Public Works.

## ■ Origin Enterprises CONSUS Research Programme

**The outstanding success of CONSUS - a €17.6 million collaborative research partnership between UCD and Origin Enterprises Plc, supported through the SFI Strategic Partnership Programme - was recognised at the final meeting of the CONSUS Steering Committee.**

The Programme was led by Professor Gregory O'Hare in Phase I and Professor Rem Collier in Phase II, with Co-Principal Investigators: Professor James Burke, Professor Nicholas Holden, Professor Kevin McDonnell, Professor Fiona Doohan and Professor Tahar Kechadi. The research programme was commended by the Committee for delivering exceptional results in the fields of digital, precision agriculture and crop science through a strong multi and interdisciplinary approach that combined the leading expertise of UCD in data science and agricultural science with Origin's integrated crop management research, systems, capabilities and extensive on-farm knowledge exchange networks.



Origin Enterprises CONSUS Research Programme

Meeting attendees included Professor Orla Feely, UCD President; John Tyrrell, Committee Chair; Seán Coyle, CEO, Origin Enterprises; TJ Kelly, CFO, Origin Enterprises; Derek Wilson, Chief Information Officer, Origin Enterprises; Dr Ann Derwin, Asst Secretary, Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ireland; Professor James Burke, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; Professor Gregory O'Hare, CONSUS Phase I Lead

Principal Investigator; Professor Rem Collier, CONSUS Phase II Lead Principal Investigator; Jon Rhymes, Head of Digital, Origin Enterprises; Peter Daly, Commercialisation Manager, Origin Enterprises; Colm McMahon, Senior Manager, Office of the UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact; and John Barry, Office of the UCD Vice-President of Strategy and External Engagement.



*Pictured (l-r) are: Gary Ryan, Director of AgTechUCD; Prof Nick Holden, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering and Academic Director, FAST-IP; Dr Siobhán Jordan, Head of Technology Transfer and Commercialisation, Teagasc; and Marina Donohoe, Head of Research and Innovation, Enterprise Ireland.*

## UCD and Teagasc in €7 million Partnership to Deliver New Food and Agri Entrepreneurship Programme

**UCD has secured €7 million in funding to deliver a new food and agriculture innovation and entrepreneurship training programme, in partnership with Teagasc. The focus of the Food and Agriculture Sustainable Technology Innovation Programme (FAST-IP) is to increase innovation knowledge within the food and agriculture sector leading to the creation of more high potential start-ups (HPSUs) and jobs in this sector of the economy.**

FAST-IP will have five intakes of fifteen participants, beginning in September 2024 at the AgTechUCD Innovation Centre at UCD Lyons Farm, and running until the end of 2029. The twelve-month in-person programme, aimed at mid-career professionals, is accredited by UCD at Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework. Participants who complete the programme will be awarded a Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

FAST-IP provides participants with a tax-free €38,000 scholarship over the twelve-month duration of the programme.

The entrepreneurial training programme will use design-thinking methodologies and will have a practical focus. Through the programme participants will learn how to conduct needs-led innovation to develop market validated solutions to unmet needs in the areas of agricultural technology and food sustainability sectors.

The programme's focus will be on the immersive experience and participants will spend 8-10 weeks immersed in agricultural environments including farms and food processing companies throughout the year-long programme.

Professor Nick Holden, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering is the Academic Director of the Graduate Diploma Programme. Professor Holden is a co-founder of Proveye, a UCD spin-out company, which is pioneering the use of digital imagery for more predictable and profitable decision-making for agriculture and the environment.

FAST-IP, supported under Enterprise Ireland's Innovators' Initiative Programme, is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027.

## UCD Professors among the World's Most Highly Cited Researchers

**Professors Da-Wen Sun, Paula Bourke and Brijesh Tiwari, have each been named amongst the top 1% of the world's most cited academics in the 2023 Highly Cited Researchers report compiled by Clarivate Analytics.**

Professor Da-Wen Sun, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, is a global authority in food engineering research and features in the global listing of influential researchers for a ninth time. A member of six academies, including the Royal Irish Academy and the Academia Europaea, one of the most prestigious societies in the world, Professor Sun has published well over 1,000 papers during his lengthy and celebrated career.

Professor Paula Bourke, Conway Fellow and Head of the UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, is ranked among the top 1% of the most cited researchers globally for a fourth time since 2018. A member of the UCD Institute of Food and Health, Professor Bourke collaborates widely internationally and with industry. Currently, her work is supported through SFI Investigator, SFI-UKRI/BBSRC and SFI US-Ireland Tripartite awards, Department of Agriculture Food and Marine FIRM, Irish Research Council, the Royal Irish Academy as well as Enterprise Ireland awards.

Professor Brijesh Tiwari, Principal Research Officer, Food Chemistry and Technology Department of Teagasc and Adjunct Professor of the UCD School Biosystems and Food Engineering was again designated a highly influential researcher in the Agricultural Sciences domain. His research focuses on novel technologies to deliver sustainable food systems, with a strong focus on green solutions to food industry challenges.

The 2023 Highly Cited Researchers listing identifies 7,000 researchers from 67 countries and regions as having demonstrated significant influence in their chosen fields over the last decades, of whom 37 researchers are based in Ireland. The United States leads in world research influence, with 2,669 Highly Cited Researcher designations given to researchers at American institutions. However, the Chinese Academy of Sciences topped the institutional list with 270 Highly Cited Researcher recognitions.

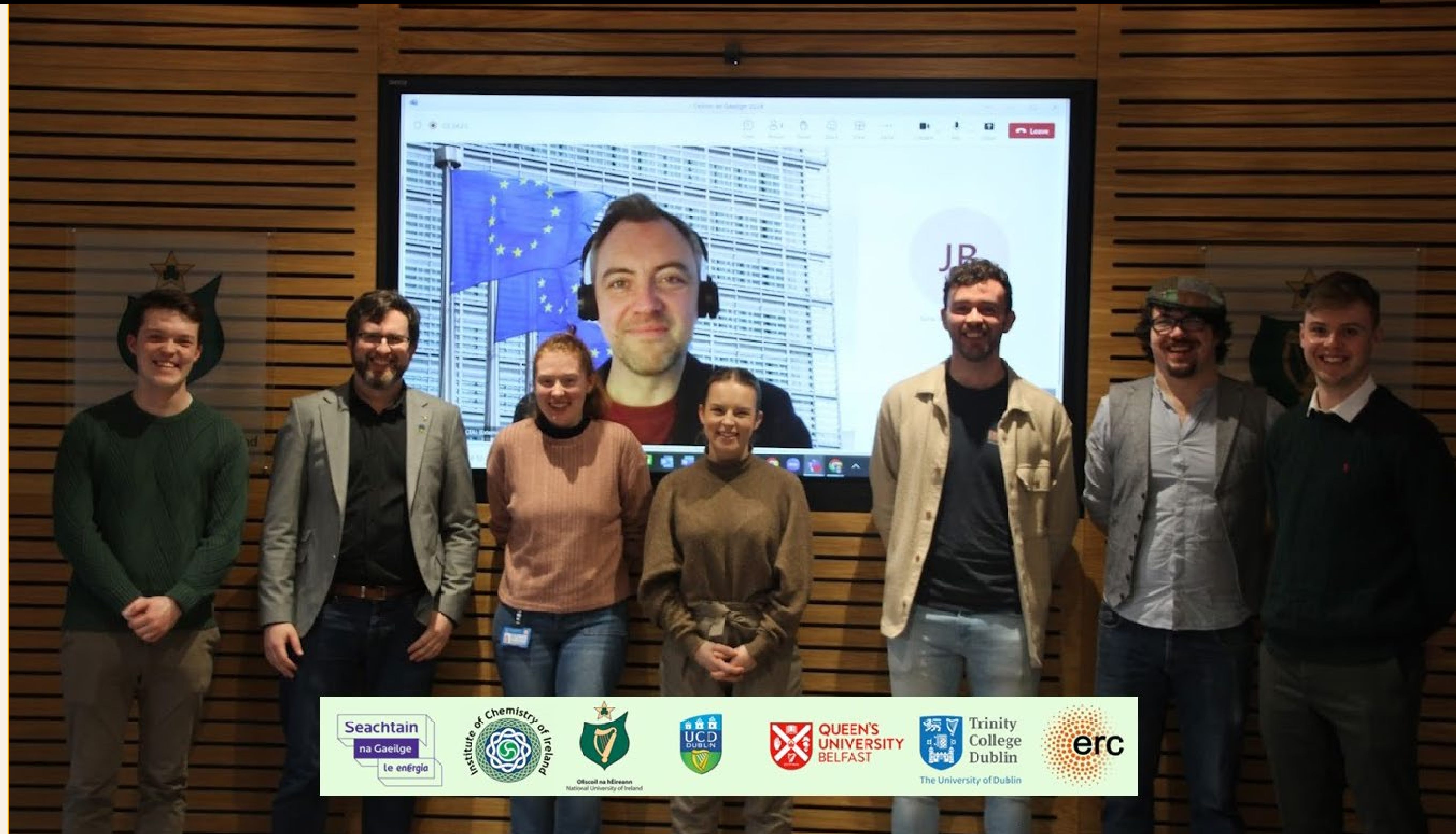




## ■ Celebrating 30 years of Hospice Africa Uganda

In November 2023, the Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU) 30th celebration took place at UCD. A 3km walk was organised around the UCD Belfield campus. Talks were delivered by the Hospice Africa Ireland team and two HAU Nurses, Roselight Katushabe and Dianah Basirika, who travelled to Dublin to share their experiences and the importance of continued support for HAU. Micheál Martin TD, Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence shared a video address celebrating the HAU, Dr Anne Merriman and UCD School of Medicine's involvement.

After graduating from the UCD Medical School in 1963, Dr Merriman was sent to work at St Luke's Hospital, Anua, in south-eastern Nigeria. In 1990, after being back in Ireland for a period of time, she returned to Africa, initially to Nairobi Hospice, before founding Hospice Africa. Dr Merriman joined via Zoom from her home in Kampala. Over €20k was raised on the day which will ensure this vital work is continued by Dr Anne Merriman and the entire team.



Rannpháirtithe Ceimic as Gaeilge 2024: Eoghan Courtney, Joe Byrne, Niamh O'Shea, Aoibheann O'Connor, Matthew Kiernan, Eoin McGee Pasquetti, Cathal Kelly.

## ■ 'Ceimic as Gaeilge 2024' – Celebrating Chemistry Research in the Irish Language

**D'eagraigh Líonra na gCeimiceoirí Óga (LCÓ) Institúid Ceimice na hÉireann imeacht stairiúil ar an 1 Márta: an chéad imeacht riamh a bhí dírithe ar thaighde ceimice i nGaeilge a phlé. Chomheagraigh an Dr Joseph Byrne (UCD) agus Leas-Cathaoirleach LCÓ Cathal Ó Ceallaigh (Ollscoil na Ríona, Béal Feirste) an imeacht, a bhí mar chuid de Sheachtain na Gaeilge. D'fhreastal breis is 25 aoí ar an gcomhdháil, in ainneoin sneachta a thit gan coinne ar an lá, a chur stop le roinnt iompair phoiblí. Bhí fearadh na fáilte ag Ollscoil na hÉireann (Cearnóg Mhuirfeann) agus ag an an Dr Patrick O'Leary, an Cláraitheoir, roimh an**

**imeacht, agus cuireadh tús leis an imeacht le cúpla focal ón Dr O'Leary féin, ar iar-léachtóir ceimice é, faoi shintéis na gcatalaíoch i dtreo feidhm chogasaíochta**

I measc na gcainteoirí éagsúla, a chuir a gcuid taighde i láthair ar an lá, bhí cúigear ó UCD: Matthew Kiernan (grúpa taighde Evans), Eoghan Courtney & Aoibheann O'Connor (grúpa taighde Guiry), Eoin McGee Pasquetti (grúpa taighde Morgan) agus an Dr Joseph Byrne (léachtóir). Phléigh siad taighde ceannródaíoch ar réimse ábhair, lena n-áirítear sintéis orgánach, tréithe maighnéadacha coimpléisc miotail agus stráitéis

maidir le díriú ar phaitiginí. Thug cainteoirí ó Bhéal Feirste agus Coláiste na Tríonóide cur i láthair freisin freisin. D'fhreastail an Dr Gearóid Ó Máille ón gComhairle Eorpach um Thaighde (CET) ar líne ón mBriséil chun eolas a thabhairt faoi dheiseanna maoinithe do thaighdeoirí faoin gClár Réime "Fís Eorpach" agus béim ar chlár CET. Is í CET príomhmhaoinitheoir an Chomisiúin Eorpaigh ar thaighde atá ar thús cadhnaíochta, agus tá raon deontais curtha ar fáil d'eolaithe ag céimeanna gairme difriúla.

Tá sé beartaithe ag an lucht eagraithe imeacht bliantúil a dhéanamh de as seo amach agus tá eolaithe UCD ag tnúth go mór leis!



## Research Event Organised for Connemara Pony Breeders

Colleagues from the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine's Equine Clinical Studies research group recently travelled to Clifden, Co Galway to present the results of their equine endocrine research to a group of over 50 Connemara pony breeders.

The research, conducted by PhD student Ahmed Al Ansari, supervised by Dr Vivienne Duggan and Dr Nikki Walshe, from the Equine Clinical Studies Section of the School, highlighted the high prevalence of obesity and laminitis in ponies of this breed in Ireland, and links with elevated blood insulin concentrations, findings which were recently published in the Equine Veterinary Journal. The findings were received with great interest by the assembled breeders and were followed by a presentation from Dr Niamh Lewis, UCD equine reproduction specialist, who presented plans for the research group to continue to develop and expand this research.

Finally, a very informative talk on nutrition was delivered by Nia O'Malley of Redmills. The event was hosted by Dr Niamh Walsh, Veterinary Surgeon in Clifden, who also facilitated Ahmed's research allowing him to access ponies from her practice across the Galway region. The Equine Clinical Studies research group looks forward to continued collaborations in this area.

## UCD Collections on Display

***'My darling wife, I know the agonies you must have suffered these past few weeks... I needn't tell you I am counting the minutes until I see you... As all our letters are read by the prison authorities, I cannot write you, love, the kind of letter I would like...'***

This was Éamon de Valera's heartfelt letter to his wife, Sinéad, from Mountjoy Gaol, just after he heard that his death sentence for taking part in the 1916 Easter Rising had been commuted. It is part of the enormously significant de Valera collection in UCD Archives, one of UCD Library's cultural heritage repositories, and key items from the collection were shown to Madame Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi on her visit to UCD in April 2024. The treasures were selected by Kate Manning, Principal Archivist, and introduced by Dr Sandra Collins, University Librarian, and Katherine McSharry, Director of Cultural Heritage.

Alongside the letter, there were photographs of the de Valeras on their wedding day and on their 50th wedding anniversary, offering a

glimpse of the private lives behind the public figures. The collection also shows us a tragic intersection of the public and the political, illustrated with another photograph, that of the wedding of Kevin O'Higgins to Brigid Cole in October 1921. Éamon de Valera and Rory O'Connor, O'Higgins' best man, flank O'Higgins and his new wife in the photograph, on this happiest of days for the UCD Law graduate.

Within months of the photograph being taken, however, O'Higgins and his two friends were on opposite sides in the Irish Civil War. During that war, O'Higgins signed the execution order for Rory O'Connor, and in 1927 was himself shot and killed.

De Valera was born in the US, and the story of his lifelong connection with that country was also illustrated with several items. They included a warmly personal letter of thanks to de Valera from Jacqueline Kennedy, a Former First Lady of the United States, following his attendance at President John F Kennedy's funeral in 1963. It refers poignantly to the poem that Sinéad de Valera, a noted folklorist, taught President Kennedy on his visit to Ireland a few short months before his assassination.

As this small selection of items showed, the de Valera collection is an extraordinary resource for research on an enormous range of

subjects. More details on how to access it and all the other riches of UCD Archives are available on the UCD Archives website ([www.ucd.ie/archives](http://www.ucd.ie/archives)).



*Sepia photograph of the wedding party at the marriage of Kevin O'Higgins and Brigid Cole on 27 October, 1921 (Papers of Kevin O'Higgins, UCD Archives). Sandra Collins and Katherine McSharry showcase selected items from UCD Archives during Nancy Pelosi's visit.*

## UCD and Intel host students from Magdeburg-Stendal University

**UCD, in collaboration with Intel, hosted Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences during a two-day event that took place in January.**

On the first day, Intel Ireland and UCD held a collaborative event with Hochschule Magdeburg, focusing on wastewater management and sustainable engineering.

Professor Aoife Ahern, UCD Vice-President for Equality Diversity and Inclusion, Dean Of Engineering and Architecture, Dr Sarah Cotterill, UCD School of Civil Engineering, John Barry, UCD Director of Strategic Partnerships and ten UCD Engineering students visited the Intel



site in Leixlip, Co Kildare, along with a visiting delegation from the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, including 25 students, Rektorin Professor Dr Manuela

Schwartz, Director of Studies Professor Yongjian Ding, Professor Dr-Ing Gilian Gerke and Professor Benedikt Lamontain. Bernie Capraro, EU Talent Development

Programme Manager, Intel, welcomed the visiting parties prior to a factory tour by Dr Fiona Moclair, EMEA EHS Manager, Director EMEA Manufacturing & Sustainability Policy, Intel. This was followed by the Magdeburg-Stendal Bachelor of Engineering's StREaM semester 4 students competition project presentations, which focused on a wastewater sustainability challenge set by Dr Fiona Moclair.

On the second day, UCD hosted the competition award and scholarship ceremony for the visiting students. Professor Aoife Ahern delivered an opening address, welcoming the visiting group. followed by group presentation awards and three Intel Scholarships for Magdeburg-Stendal students.

## UCD launches comprehensive Community Engagement Report

**The most recent UCD Community Engagement Report captures a snapshot of UCD's community engagement activities during the academic year 2022/23. The report documents various projects where university resources and expertise have been leveraged to address local issues, ranging from education and healthcare to environmental sustainability and economic development. The launch event, held at the Contemplative space in the UCD Quinn School of Business, saw a gathering of UCD colleagues, community partners, and students.**

Professor Joe Carthy, UCD in the Community, welcomed everyone to the launch in May 2024. In his welcome address, Professor Carthy outlined how the community-university partnerships highlighted in this report provide real and meaningful benefits for all those involved. He then invited Professor Colin Scott, Registrar, Deputy President and Vice President for Academic Affairs at to officially launch the report.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the community engagement work highlighted in this report, Professor Scott spoke about the importance of real, collaborative engagement with the



*Pictured (l-r) are: Theresa O'Leary, School of Computer Science; Prof Colin Scott, Registrar and Deputy President; Dr Karen Keaveney, School of Agriculture and Food Science; Assoc Prof Aideen Quilty, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice; Sinead Mahon; Prof Joe Carthy, School of Computer Science; Aoife Fitzgerald, student adviser, and Niamh Byrne, School of Computer Science.*

community. Professor Scott officially launched the report and encouraged people to read and engage with the report and the stories featured in it.

The event also featured several guest speakers who shared their experiences and insights from various projects detailed in the report. Among them was Dr Karen Keaveney, Head of Subject for Rural Development in the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.

Dr Keaveney shared her interest in community engagement and spoke about her project 'Sharing Community Experiences of Planning Coastal Village Futures', which features in the report.

Associate Professor Aideen Quilty, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Associate Dean of Social Sciences, and Sinead Mahon, coordinator of Ronanstown Community Development Project, Clondalkin,

closed the event speaking about the collaborative UCD Gender Studies Community University Outreach Programme.

To conclude the proceedings, Professor Joe Carthy encouraged others to take inspiration from the report and to get involved in community engagement projects in the coming year.

To view the report and to learn more about the university's community engagement initiatives, visit [www.ucd.ie/ucdinthecommunity](http://www.ucd.ie/ucdinthecommunity)

## ■ UCD Earth Institute Announces Inaugural Journalist-in-Residence Fellowships

**The UCD Earth Institute is delighted to announce our inaugural resident journalists for 2024, Dr Claire O'Connell, freelance science journalist and communicator, and Lauren Boland, The Journal reporter with a focus on climate. The scheme is one of the first journalist-in-residence programmes at an Irish university, and the first with a focus on environmental, climate, and sustainability research. By fostering collaboration between journalists and academics, the scheme aims to amplify public discourse on pressing global challenges, to drive meaningful change through informed dialogue and storytelling, and to support high-quality journalism around environmental research.**

Dr Claire O'Connell holds a BSc and a PhD from UCD and a MSc in Science Communication from DCU. Claire has been writing for The Irish Times about science, health and innovation since 2005, and she has written for numerous other publications, including Silicon Republic. She has published two non-fiction books: 'Catching the Worm, Towards Ending River Blindness and Reflections on My Life' (Royal Irish Academy, 2020), written with Nobel laureate Professor William C Campbell, and 'Work. Life. Lessons from Leaders' (Royal Irish Academy, 2023), a collection of insights from leaders in academia, industry, medicine and politics. In 2016, Claire was named Irish Science Writer of the Year.

Lauren joined The Journal team in 2020 during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and has covered many

of the world's rolling crises since then, from Covid-19 and conflicts to climate change. She has covered major climate news in Ireland and abroad, penning stories reporting on scientific research and extreme weather events to climate action plans and policy debates. Lauren attended COP27 in Egypt and COP28 in the UAE, where she produced written and multimedia content tailored to an Irish audience. She is the author of The Journal's monthly climate newsletter 'Temperature Check' and regularly contributes to radio and television programmes to discuss climate and other current affairs.

Lauren is currently in her final semester of a Masters in Climate Change at DCU. In 2022, she was awarded Newcomer of the Year at the Law Society of Ireland's Justice Media Awards and was shortlisted in an additional two categories. In 2020, she was shortlisted at the National Mental Health Media Awards.

Professor Eoin O'Neill, Director of the UCD Earth Institute, expressed his enthusiasm about and support for the journalist-in-residence scheme, stating, "I'm delighted to welcome Claire and Lauren as our first UCD Earth Institute journalists-in-residence. This initiative marks a significant milestone in our commitment to bridging the gap between academia and journalism. By offering journalists first-hand access to research and expertise at UCD, we aim to catalyse informed conversations on pressing environmental, climate and sustainability issues."



*Dr Niamh Howlin, UCD Sutherland School of Law.*

## ■ Presidential Pardon recommended after UCD Expert Review

**Two men hanged more than 140 years ago for murder are to receive a posthumous presidential pardon following a case review by Dr Niamh Howlin, UCD Sutherland School of Law.**

Sylvester Poff and James Barrett were convicted of murdering farmer Thomas Browne in October 1882, and later executed by hanging in January 1883. Their trial took place during the Land War, an intense three-year period of agrarian agitation in rural Ireland seeking fair rent and better protections for tenant farmers, and followed the assassinations of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Thomas Henry Burke, then Ireland's most senior civil servant.

The Phoenix Park murders, as they were called, saw coercive legislation passed to clamp down on crimes such as murder, treason, arson, attacks on dwelling-houses and crimes of aggravated violence. Poff and Barrett were tried twice before special juries in Cork over the murder and despite pleas for mercy they were executed. Now, 141 years later, and following a detailed review of the case by Dr Howlin, the Irish Government has decided to recommend to President Michael D Higgins that he exercise his right to pardon.

Dr Howlin's case review, carried out at the request of the Department of Justice, found the convictions were unsafe based on several factors, including a 'packed jury',

evidential deficiencies, no motive, and that other lines of enquiry were neglected during the investigation and trial. In addition, the report found that there was no direct evidence against Poff and Barrett, with the case resting on the circumstantial and contradictory evidence of one witness.

"A twenty-first century criminal court would not convict [these men] on the basis of the evidence which was presented by the Crown in 1882," she said. "The convictions were also inconsistent with the legal standards of the period. They were convicted based on evidence which was both circumstantial and weak."

This is the fourth time a posthumous Presidential Pardon could be awarded.



The John Hogan Sculpture (1848) at UCD Belfield House.

## Art History, Collection and the Grand Tour

**Professor Lynda Mulvin, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, organised a workshop for MA Art History students on the topic of Art History, Collection and the Grand Tour during Spring Break.**

The main focus was Grand Tour connections between Italy and Lyons House, focussing on the wonderful John Hogan Sculpture (1848) which is now in Belfield House, depicting Hibernia with

the head of Lord Cloncurry, Valentine Lawless. Attendees were from UCD College of Science, OPW, NUI Maynooth, TCD and Irish Georgian Society, who all enjoyed a visit to see the sculpture.

International speakers came from Denmark, Aachen, Lausanne and TCD. One of the speakers, Dr Ciarán Rua O'Neill, has since been successfully awarded a Marie Skłodowska Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship to study the John Hogan sculpture along with other art works in UCD on the topic of 'Irish Art and visual representations of Hibernia 1730-1930', under the mentorship of Professor Mulvin. He joins UCD from Aarhus University, Denmark.

The event was held in UCD Newman House and was funded by the College of Arts and Humanities.

## UCD Launches Groundbreaking Report on Traveller Experiences in Higher Education

**UCD Access and Lifelong Learning published the research report 'Hand the Shame Back - A Qualitative Study of Traveller Experiences Across the Continuum - Enabling a University for All' by Dr Hannagh McGinley. Professor Colin Scott, Registrar and Deputy President officially launched the report. The report was authored by Dr McGinley whose identification as a Traveller brought a unique strength to the study and contributed to the depth and breadth of the findings.**

The research report presents findings on Traveller experiences across the education continuum, which is crucial for understanding the deeply ingrained practices and structures that impact Travellers' access to and engagement in higher education. This research was funded through the Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH) Strand 5, managed by Fiona Sweeney and supported by Thomond Coogan of UCD Access and Lifelong Learning. Dr Deirdre McGillicuddy, UCD School of Education was Principal Investigator on the research project.

Dr McGinley presented her research at the launch giving an overview of the challenges and barriers to educational success faced by the research participants. These challenges include experiences of discrimination and racism in school, distressing interactions with educators and the impact of low expectations, their relationships with their non-Traveller peers, financial barriers to engaging in education, and a gap in intergenerational educational capital. Furthermore, she outlined suggested ways to improve access and participation in higher education among the Traveller community. The research participants called for better access to information, improved provision of good career guidance, and simplified funding application processes. They also highlighted the importance of early intervention and engaging with families.

The launch event included a panel of speakers: Senator Eileen Flynn, Oein DeBhairduin, Annmarie McDonagh and

Bernard Sweeney. The panel stressed the importance of supporting Traveller participation through mentoring, academic support, training for all staff, increasing visibility, providing safe spaces and promoting Access Programmes.



The John Hogan Sculpture (1848) at UCD Belfield House.

## Earth Institute launches 'Democracy and the Environment' seminar series

The UCD Earth Institute launched a new 'Democracy and the Environment' series of city centre-based seminars and discussions focused on the role of democracy and the environment, citizen trust in public institutions, and the sustainability agenda in the context of the local and presidential elections. The series aims to establish close links between the Irish research community and wider society including local communities, politicians and other strategic actors.

The first seminar on Rural Transitions included contributions from rural experts Dr Karen Keaveney, Head of Subject in Rural Development, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, and Vice-President of the Geographical Society of Ireland; Kieran Harrahill, PhD candidate and senior researcher with TASC; and Dr Andrew Forde, Department of Rural and Community Development. The seminar highlighted the intersection of research and policy in the areas of rural development, rural identity, rural climate transition and living standards.



The series continued with 'Expert Advice and the Environment', an exploration of the dynamics of trust in expertise towards climate change mitigation and public transport policy through insights from Dublin deliberative mini publics. The event featured

environmental economics expert Dr Finbarr Brereton, Head of UCD Environmental Policy and Dr Simon Mooney, UCD Environmental Policy, in conversation with panel members Anne Graham, CEO of the National Transport Authority, and Dr Shane Timmons, Senior Research Officer from the Economic and Social Research Institute, facilitated by Dr Linda Fox-Rogers, UCD Ad Astra Fellow, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy.

Following on from this was the 'The Nature Restoration Law: a status update through the WaterLANDS Project event' with Dr Craig Bullock, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy and Dr Shane McGuinness, UCD School of Geography, as well as Dr Rebecca Jeffrey, National Parks & Wildlife Service. The discussion examined why the proposed Nature Restoration Law is necessary, and the challenges in its implementation.

The UCD Earth Institute city centre seminar series finished with 'Building Stories: Irish Towns, Vacancy and Data' which discussed the implications of SFI-funded research that explores the generation of reliable and dynamic baseline data on the likelihood of vacancy as a mechanism for managing the efficient use of our built environment. The seminar featured presentations from Dr Philip Crowe, Co-founder UCD Centre for Irish Towns and Assistant Professor in the UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy; and Dr Gavin McArdle, UCD School of Computer Science and CeADAR) followed by a panel discussion which made connections with similar perspectives around the theme of vacancy in Irish towns and the role of vacant properties in sustainable town regeneration.



Pictured (l-r): Prof Patricia Maguire, School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science; Prof Brian Caulfield, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science; Prof Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences; Ana Le Chevillier, Clinical Research Manager; Prof Gerardine Doyle, School of Business; Assoc Prof Brian Mac Namee, School of Computer Science; Prof Fionnuala Ní Áinle, School of Medicine; Prof Peter Doran, School of Medicine; Prof Kate Robson Brown, VP for Research, Innovation and Impact; Prof Colin Scott, Registrar and Deputy President and Cora McCann, Business Development Manager.

## Launch of UCD AI Healthcare Hub

UCD celebrated the successful launch of the UCD AI Healthcare Hub, marking a significant milestone in the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into healthcare in May 2024. The event, a culmination of extensive planning, showcased a shared vision of revolutionizing healthcare with AI. Leading the initiative was an incredible leadership team comprising of Professor Patricia Maguire, Professor Peter Doran, Professor Fionnuala Ní Áinle, Professor Brian Caulfield, Professor Gerardine Doyle, Associate Professor Brian Mac Namee, and the wider interdisciplinary UCD community of practice.

The evening's highlights underscored the transformative potential of AI in healthcare.

Discussions revealed AI's readiness to enhance patient care and clinical trial methodologies, promising significant improvements in healthcare outcomes. Emphasis on the mantra "good data in, good data out" highlighted the necessity for widespread data literacy to ensure accurate and reliable AI-driven insights. The increasing responsibilities of regulators and auditors in overseeing research and product development were acknowledged, to ensure ethical and safe AI application. AI's potential to empower healthcare providers and patients, enhancing clinical decision-making processes without replacing clinicians, was noted. The panellists stressed the need for AI to address global data bias and healthcare inequalities, aiming to improve health literacy and equitable access to healthcare. Ana Le Chevillier discussed

innovative research projects at the new hub, including AI PREMie and THORAX. Additionally, a UCD internal seed fund aiming to support cross-disciplinary research, enhancing patient safety and outcomes through collaboration, was launched.

Professor Patricia Maguire, Director of UCD Institute for Discovery which will house this new hub, expressed her enthusiasm for the event, noting the importance of leveraging available technology and knowledge to accelerate AI-driven translational research for tangible patient benefits. "Bringing this multidisciplinary community of practice from across UCD together for our inaugural launch event was truly special," she remarked. "The successful launch of the UCD AI Healthcare Hub not only highlighted the collaborative spirit within the university but also set the stage for ground-breaking advancements in healthcare driven by AI."



Pictured (l-r) are: Prof Bill Roche with Miriam Hillery (wife of Brian Hillery) and Conor Hillery (son of Brian Hillery).

## ■ Ireland's first HRM and ER Department celebrates 50 years

**UCD College of Business celebrated the 50th anniversary of the formation of the current Human Resource Management and Employment Relations Department on 12 March, 2024.**

Gathering alumni, faculty, staff and the wider business community, the event summarised the creation of Ireland's first Chair, Professor Brian Hillery, and the Department in Industrial Relations in 1974, as well as the education and research that has influenced the field. Fifty years later, the Human Resource Management and Employment Relations Subject Area at UCD College of Business remains at the forefront of innovative research and teaching.

"Human Resource Management remains a vibrant and influential field concerning how we manage people at work," said Professor Anne Keegan, Full Professor of International Human Resource Management/Human Resource Management. "Since the foundation of the department, certain principles have been at the heart of our teaching and research including the importance of connection with leading actors in the employment sphere including trade unions, employers and other social and public policy partners.

The department has engaged in transformative curriculum design and programme innovation, and always strives for impact through research and education."

"In current research on HRM, industrial and employment relations, our faculty are international leaders in gig work, algorithmic management and the impact on HRM, voice and job quality; the intersection of care in relation to the workplace; European integration and employment relations; trends in unionisation; organisational practices impacting on gender equity; decent work in global supply chains; job quality for essential workers, and much more," continued Professor Keegan, who is the first woman to lead the HRM Subject Area.

"We continuously innovate in our teaching with new offerings in recent years covering HRM technology, analytics and digital innovation, and sustainable HRM and employment relations. Continued innovation in research and education will be critically important in the years to come as we face major societal challenges and task HRM leaders to be at the forefront of finding solutions."

## ■ Lyons Farm: UCD's Hub of Innovation and Sustainability

**Nestled on 605 acres of lush, fertile land in Co Kildare, Lyons Farm stands as a beacon of agricultural excellence and research innovation. Celebrating 62 years of operation, it is the only university farm in Ireland, offering a full ecosystem that includes beef, dairy, sheep, equine, crops, pigs and goats. With its HPRA (Health Products Regulatory Authority) certification and heritage site status, Lyons Farm is not only a research powerhouse but also a custodian of Ireland's rich agricultural legacy.**

Managed by highly skilled farming and agrifood professionals, Lyons Farm supports in excess of €40 million in grant approved research and caters to over 2,000 undergraduate students and postgraduate researchers. The farm as a research facility is a key enabler in securing critical funding. It is a dynamic hub where groundbreaking ideas and activities are seeded and nurtured in an applied academic setting. The farm plays a pivotal role in three strategic initiatives vital to Ireland's future: Creating a Sustainable Future, the National Climate Action Plan, and the National Food Vision 2030 strategy.

Recent advancements include the newly opened AgTechUCD Innovation Centre and UCD BiMeda Herd Health Hub, which serve as incubators for the latest innovations and startups in the agrifood industry. The farm provides a research infrastructure to all UCD Schools, currently facilitating over 50 research projects

in a given year, from Engineering to Medicine, Veterinary to Environmental Science and Agriculture to Food Science.

UCD is dedicated to reducing the climate footprint of Lyons Farm, aiming for a 30 to 51% reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2030. As an early adopter of cutting-edge technologies and management practices, the farm is at the forefront of efforts to enhance sustainable food systems, improve agricultural efficiencies, and boost biodiversity. This commitment positions UCD as a national and international leader in addressing land use challenges.

Lyons Farm is not only a teaching and research facility but also a centre for continuous professional development (CPD) and executive education. It serves as a satellite hub for education, supporting lifelong learning and fostering the leaders of tomorrow. The farm's research projects and activities underpin a food systems approach, contributing significantly to UCD's national and international reputation in agriculture and food science.

In terms of community service, Lyons Farm acts as a gateway for research funding and a platform for knowledge sharing with farmers, the public and social enterprises. Its green credentials are bolstered by initiatives like solar panel development and participation in the Irish Soil Moisture Monitoring Network and the Global Farm Platform.

Looking ahead, Lyons Farm is poised to support climate



change mitigation, One Health implementation, sustainable agriculture, animal health and welfare, and smart agriculture, among other priorities. This vision ensures that Lyons Farm remains an inspiring, world-class facility dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, and global sustainability challenges within an Irish context.

## ■ UCD's LaNua Medical Wins Big Ideas Award

**LaNua Medical, an emerging UCD spin-out supported by NovaUCD, was declared the winner of the Big Ideas Competition at Enterprise Ireland's Start-Up 2024 event in Dublin Castle. As part of the Big Ideas award, LaNua Medical will now go on represent Ireland at the Pegasus Start-Up World Cup in San Francisco this October.**

Dr Cormac Farrelly, UCD School of Medicine and a consultant radiologist at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, and a member of the LaNua Medical team, pitched at the event and was presented with the Big Ideas Award by Peter Burke TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

LaNua Medical, an Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund project, is developing solutions for problems in embolization. Embolization is a minimally invasive procedure that can be used to treat, for example, internal bleeding or benign and malignant tumours. LaNua's GateKeeper device blocks blood flow to select tissue, while enabling targeted therapeutic delivery aimed at reducing the risk of side effects.

LaNua Medical was one of ten investor-ready potential spinouts that had three minutes to pitch their new technology solutions to a 600 strong audience made up of representatives from the Irish start-up ecosystem including VCs and other funders, State support agencies and professional and financial services.

The other members of the LaNua Medical team in addition to Dr Farrelly are; Dr Eoin O'Cearbhaill, Tom Fitzmaurice and Sajjad Amiri, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering. LaNua Medical completed the 2022 UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme delivered by NovaUCD.



With you on your start-up journey



*Pictured (l-r) are: LaNua Medical team members; Dr Eoin O'Cearbhaill, Dr Cormac Farrelly and Tom Fitzmaurice.*

## ■ Cyberwise Event

**The Cyberwise Cyber Security Shared Learning Day was held at UCD in April and brought together around 250 students and their teachers from over twenty secondary schools nationwide, showcasing the vital role of cybersecurity in our digital age. The event was a dynamic demonstration of cybersecurity projects and educational initiatives.**

The comprehensive agenda was designed to immerse participants in cyber safety and foster digital technology skills from leading experts in the field. Ossian Smyth TD, Minister

of State in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), launched the event and met with students who showcased what they had learned from the DECC-funded junior cycle cybersecurity short course, an initiative aimed at cultivating foundational cybersecurity skills among young learners.

The event was organised by Dr Rachel Farrell, UCD School of Education, Dr Rob Brennan, UCD School of Computer Science, and colleagues from the UCD School of Computer Science. Both Dr Farrell and Dr

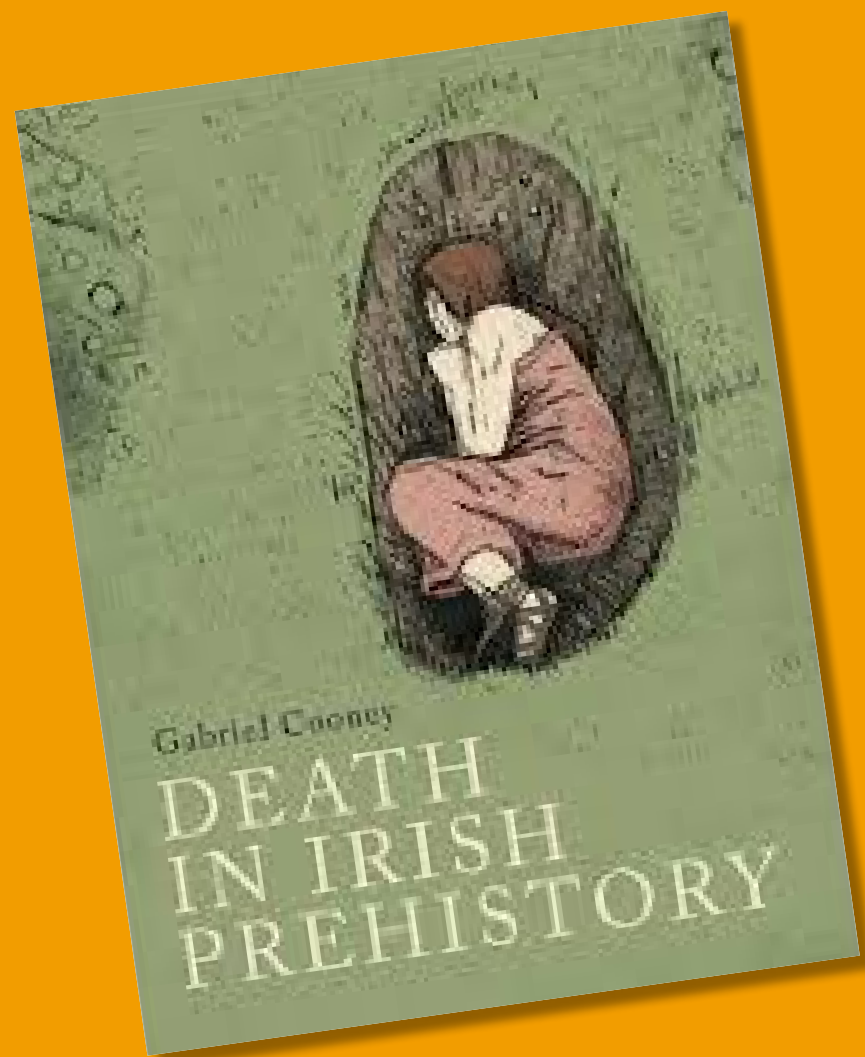
Brennan also provided updates on the DECC-funded Cybersecurity Junior Cycle Short Course and the SFI-funded project "Busting Gender Bias in Computer Science and Cybersecurity." The event concluded with an awards presentation where students were recognised for their projects and contributions to cybersecurity. Overall, the Cyberwise Security Shared Learning Day highlighted the critical importance of cybersecurity awareness and demonstrated the ongoing efforts to integrate this knowledge into the educational curriculum across Ireland.



# Books

## ■ Death in Irish Prehistory

**Professor Emeritus Gabriel Cooney**  
**Royal Irish Academy**  
**ISBN: 978-1802050097**



It is fitting that Prof Gabriel Cooney's *Death in Irish Prehistory* is beautifully published. The book is a good object to handle: folded matte paper cover, muted but clear and often moving colour illustrations, crisp paper, a comforting but easy weight in the hands. He's writing about bodies as objects, as material culture, but also about objects as bodies, not so much blurring as dissecting the lines between people and things through a loving and richly expert exploration of what remains of Ireland's prehistoric dead.

If you're uninterested in prehistory, death and Ireland (how?) reading this won't convert you. The discussion – it's more open, more curious, than an argument – rests on detailed and

scholarly accounts of archaeological sites and debates. At least to the eye of an enthusiastic amateur, Cooney is meticulous in his account of current and recent scholarship in ways that won't always delight but should reassure the casual reader. If you are interested, this book offers a deeper understanding of the specialism, with careful and caring explanation of technical terms and developments and the broad perspective of the late-career scholar.

For me, a magpie reader, the more speculative moments are the more memorable, especially in the context of Cooney's reminders that only a very small proportion of the prehistoric dead leave us their bodies, and often our encounter with these bodies is as much a matter of chance – road-building, erosion, soil conditions – as the intentions of those who buried them. I was fascinated to be invited to think about the dismembering and distribution of human remains: 'Rather than our modern concept of the fixity of identity with the physical body of a person, these mortuary practices indicate that selected human bodies were used post-mortem to construct and reflect social ties between the deceased and kinfolk, animals, things and places.' I read the book on a walking holiday in Clare, and saw the landscape in a new – or very old – light. There are, necessarily, some drier patches, but the reward for them is the invitation to wonder anew: what, exactly, is a person, what has a person been in the deep past? What has it meant and might it mean to be dead? The past is another country, and this kind of work is how we think about visiting.

**Sarah Moss**

## ■ Bonifacio de' Pitati

**On 16 May, the National Gallery of Ireland and its Director, Dr Caroline Campbell, launched *Bonifacio de' Pitati* - the first major monographic study of the prolific Venetian Renaissance painter Bonifacio de' Pitati (1487-1553) for almost a century. The book was co-authored by Dr Philip Cottrell, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, in conjunction with Professor Peter Humfrey, University of St Andrews.**



A contemporary and rival of Titian, Bonifacio represented a progressive and influential force in Venetian painting in the middle decades of the sixteenth century. Constantly in demand as a decorator of state offices and churches, Bonifacio was also a specialist in scenes of holy gatherings set in idyllic countryside settings

for domestic interiors. These complement his pioneering development of large panoramic narratives for Venetian palaces which reflect the glamorous gentrification of Venetian society and the development of its mainland villa culture. In terms of their approach to colour, landscape and descriptive detail, these are among the most beautiful paintings of their era.

The first half of the book comprises a series of essays covering the chronological development of Bonifacio's career within the wider context of Venetian Renaissance painting by Philip Cottrell. This prefaces a detailed catalogue raisonné of over two hundred of Bonifacio's paintings by Peter Humfrey, including recent discoveries, discussed and illustrated for the first time. In acknowledgement of Bonifacio's reputation as one of the great colourists of the Venetian school, the book is richly illustrated with nearly three hundred colour illustrations of works of art by Bonifacio and his contemporaries. After decades in which Venetian art historians have struggled to comprehend the pattern of Bonifacio's development and the extent of his large oeuvre, this is the first detailed, navigable account of his career. It succeeds in reintroducing a major and influential artist of Venice's artistic golden age to the wider critical consciousness.

# Books

## Foreign Tongues

**Dr Phyllis Gaffney, Emeritus Associate Professor, UCD School of Languages Cultures and Linguistics, launched her book, *Foreign Tongues*, in May. Dr Gaffney's research interests include Franco-Irish relations, literary translation and Samuel Beckett. She started as a medievalist, then taught every century of French literature at Carysfort College of Education and later at UCD.**

In her book, Dr Gaffney discusses the impact of Victorian language on Ireland's history:

"History shifts languages; languages shape history, a deep-rooted, dynamic process manifest in Victorian Ireland. Continental influences predating the Penal Laws were reinvigorated in the wake of the French Revolution. An influx of foreign teachers and religious orders created institutions for an emerging élite. University education expanded, while civil service reforms opened careers

across the Empire to graduates of all religions. TCD had led the way in modern languages; now, Ireland's Victorian colleges embraced language study, ancient and modern, Irish and European, more eagerly than their British counterparts. An adaptive, fast-changing academic landscape laid the groundwork for today's Ireland, culturally confident, open to Europe and the world, while the dramatic rise of the Gaelic League forged a bond between language, education and politics with pervasive effects on Irish identities in the twentieth century.

"None of that was plain sailing. Profiles of individual professors reveal intriguing patterns: pioneering scholarship, precarious careers, sudden scandals, denunciations and dismissals linked to local conflicts and foreign wars. On the positive side, the advance of women's education cleared the path for a cohort of notable female professors across modern languages. This wide-ranging, detailed study draws on multiple sources to cast a fresh light on aspects of Irish history, viewed through the complex lens of language education.



Pictured at the launch are Fiona Coughlan, Dr David Doolin and Leo Cullen.

## Launch of *The History of Rugby in Leinster*

**Dr David Doolin, UCD School of History, was awarded the Kevin Brabazon Newman Fellowship in History of Rugby in Leinster in March 2020.**

Despite the massive impact of a global pandemic which limited his access to archives, David managed to pivot his project with the help of the family of the late Des Daly, Honorary Leinster Rugby Statistician, who meticulously kept his own rugby records.

David said: "My official start date as a Newman Fellow was 2 March 2020. Exactly 10 days later, on 12 March we went into lockdown. With the Covid pandemic, all of my best laid plans went out the window. Archives were shut down, plans to visit the clubs in Leinster and talk to people one to one, all went out the window.

"We had to pivot, and thanks to the Fellowship I was able to do that. I was very lucky, with the help of Professor Paul Rouse in particular, to find private archives which I could put into my car and drive home to my house and that's where the work was allowed to stay on track.

"I owe a huge thanks to Helen Daly and the Daly family. Helen allowed me to come to her house and take boxes and boxes of material from the late Des Daly. I never met the man but I know how passionate he was about rugby. I can't thank the Daly family enough for keeping this project on the road. It wouldn't have been possible without Des's archive."

The pride was palpable at the book launch in the RDS as David's three years of gruelling



Pictured at the launch are Fiona Coughlan, Dr David Doolin and Leo Cullen.

research came to fruition in the form of his hardback, *The History of Rugby in Leinster*. Former Leinster captains Fiona Coughlan and Leo Cullen were in attendance on the night as special guests.

The book is the first of its kind to compile Leinster Rugby's rich history, from its foundation, through the amateur years, to the club's many spectacular championships in the twenty-first century, when the national love for rugby kicked up a gear.

David expressed his gratitude to David Brabazon, who funded his Fellowship, to his supervisor Professor Paul Rouse and to the Newman Fellowship Programme as a whole.

He said: "The Newman Fellowship experience was brilliant for me. It was an important step in my career as an academic. I am delighted that all the research has culminated in the launch of a book, produced in conjunction with Merrion Press."



UCD President Award recipients (UCD Student Centre)

## UCD President's Awards

**The UCD President's Awards recognise students for their exceptional contribution to campus life, in the depth and breadth of their activities in clubs, societies, the Students' Union, and other student organisations.**

These awards celebrate the dedication and passion of students who go above and beyond to enhance the university experience for their peers. Winners demonstrate outstanding leadership, creativity and commitment, often balancing their academic responsibilities with their extracurricular endeavours. Through their involvement, they foster a vibrant and inclusive campus community, leaving a legacy that inspires future generations of UCD students.

Students were nominated by their peers or by staff within their respective area for their exceptional contribution to student life and activities, for giving back to UCD through life outside the classroom.

The recipients who have represented sports clubs for 2024 were;

Ciara Douglas, UCD Archery  
 Hazel Hourigan, UCD Equestrian Club  
 Emma Kelly, UCD Women's Rugby  
 Adam McNally, UCD GAA  
 Faith Molloy, UCD Karate



UCD Ladies Hockey, winners of the EuroHockey Club Trophy II (Photo credit: UCD LHC).

## UCD Ladies Hockey win the EuroHockey Club Trophy II

**UCD Ladies Hockey were crowned EuroHockey Club Trophy II champions in May after beating Turkish side Gaziantep 4-1 in the final of the tournament in Alanya, Turkey.**

Eleven years ago, UCD celebrated a historic victory by winning their first-ever trophy in representative hockey, securing the EuroHockey Challenge I title in Sardinia. Marking the eleventh anniversary of that momentous achievement, UCD clinched their second triumph in the same tier of competition, now renamed the EuroHockey Club Trophy II.

UCD took an early lead against Gaziantep with Leah O'Shea scoring a penalty corner in the 13th minute. Captain Emma Paul extended the lead in the 25th minute, making it 2-0 at half-time. UCD added two more goals from Florence Maughan and Lauren Moore, making it 4-0 by the 39th minute. Gaziantep scored a consolation goal in the 44th minute, ending the match 4-1 in UCD's favour.

A special mention to coach Miles Warren for ending his tenure on such a high note.



UCD Marian celebrating their National League Division 1 Final win (Photo credit: Sportsfile)

## UCD Marian secure Super League Return

UCD Marian made an immediate return to the Super League after a 94-81 victory over Tolka Rovers in the National League Division 1 Final in March. Jonathon Jean was crucial to the win, claiming the MVP award with 34 points, five rebounds and seven assists.

This followed the club's victory in the President's Cup Final earlier in the year, defeating Limerick Sport Eagles with a final score of 91-78. Jonathon Jean led the charge with an impressive 29 points, Sean French contributed 17 points, while Toby Christiansen added 12.



Eve McMahon – Dr Tony O'Neill Sportsperson of the Year (Photo credit: Thom Touw).



Barry O'Connor of UCD Men's Boat is presented the Graduate of the Year award by UCD President Prof Orla Feely during the UCD Athletic Union Council Sports Awards (Photo credit: Sportsfile).



Michael Colreavy wins a lineout for UCD RFC in the Fraser McMullen Cup Final (Photo credit: Lucas Maguire).

## UCD Rugby U20A's win Fraser McMullen Cup

UCD RFC U20 A side became All-Ireland Champions by winning the Fraser McMullen Cup defeating Lansdowne on a scoreline of 33-26. This was the first time since 2012 UCD RFC had won the competition. UCD commanded a 28-0 interval lead in very windy conditions, and while Lansdowne pressed in the second half, the U20 side held firm to clinch the win.

## Athletic Union Council Sports Awards 2024

**The UCD AUC Sports Awards, an annual event that recognises excellence in student sport, was held at the Astra Hall in the UCD Student Centre in May 2024. Over 400 students from 28 different sports clubs were honoured for their outstanding achievements on behalf of the University over the last twelve months.**

Professor Orla Feely, UCD President praised the students for their achievements and recognised sport as an integral part of student life. The Awards are a fitting tribute to the hard work and dedication of UCD's athletes, coaches, and administrators.

Eve McMahon of UCD Sailing was named the Dr Tony O'Neill Sportsperson of the Year, recognising her stellar achievements in sailing. The UCD Ladies and Men's Boat Club earned the title of Elite Club of the Year, while the UCD Men's Boat team was awarded Elite Team of the Year for their impressive performances.

The Club Event of the Year accolade went to the Sailing Intervarsities, highlighting the event's success and impact, which was organised by the UCD Sailing Club. They were also awarded the Event of the Year at the annual Student Sport Ireland

networking event in later in May.

UCD Trampoline received the Club Inclusion Award, celebrating their efforts to promote inclusivity within the sport. Barry O'Connor from the Men's Boat was named Graduate of the Year, acknowledging his contributions and dedication.

UCD Canoe was honoured as the Varsity Club of the Year, and the UCD Karate team was recognised as the Varsity Team of the Year for their remarkable achievements. Ciara Douglas from UCD Archery was awarded the Gerry Horkan Club Administrator of the Year for her exemplary administrative skills and commitment to the club.

Special memorial medals were also presented: Aimee Barry of UCD Equestrian received the David O'Connor Memorial Medal, and Adam McNally from UCD GAA was awarded the Dr Pdraic Conway Memorial Medal, both for their outstanding contributions to their respective sports.

UCD Sport have been grateful to the club committees comprised of students, staff and graduates for providing the sporting opportunities to over ten and a half thousand club members this year.



Nicola Tuthill competes in the Women's Hammer on Day One of the 123.ie National Senior Outdoor Championships at Morton Stadium (photo credit: Sam Barnes, Sportsfile).

# Varsity Round-Up: Celebrating UCD's Athletic Achievements

## American Football

UCD American Football team triumphed at the Intervarsities in November, dominating the UL Vikings with a decisive 26-0 victory.

## Boxing

Conan Murray showcased his boxing prowess by winning the Intermediate title at 56kg at the Irish Athletic Third-Level Boxing Association Championships.

## Cycling

UCD Cycling teams shone at the 2024 National Varsity Championships, securing victories in both the Elite Men's Team and Elite Women's Team categories.

## Fencing

At the Irish Fencing Intervarsities, UCD captured gold in the Women's Épée and Women's Sabre events, highlighting their dominance in the sport.

## Golf

Emma Fleming emerged victorious in the Women's title at the Irish Golf Intervarsity Championship, adding another accolade to UCD's impressive roster.

## Karate

UCD Karate had an extraordinary year, winning the All-Ireland Karate Intervarsities and the Intercollegiate Cup. These victories have established UCD Karate as the top-ranked university karate club in the country.

## Mountaineering

Dylan Dodd continued her winning streak at the Irish University Climbing Competition, securing gold in the Women's Advanced category for the second consecutive year.

## Orienteering

At this year's Orienteering University Championships, UCD retained the Women's shield for the second year in a row. Jordan Kim and Eoghan Whelan also achieved individual success, winning the Women's B and Men's A events, respectively.

## Sailing

The UCD Sailing team were crowned champions at the Irish University Sailing Association (IUSA) Intervarsity Championships held in March.

## Swimming

UCD swimmers made a splash at the Irish Intervarsity Swimming Championships. Jena MacDougald won gold in both the 200m Backstroke and 200m Breaststroke, Alessandro Ozella took gold in the 100m Breaststroke, and Naomi Trait triumphed in the 200m Freestyle.

## Taekwon-Do

Hosting the Irish Taekwon-Do Intervarsities, UCD won gold medals across patterns, sparring, and breaking events, showcasing their comprehensive martial arts talent.

## Tennis

UCD Men's First Tennis Team clinched gold at the Tennis University Championships for the second consecutive year, defeating TCD in the final with a resounding 6-0 scoreline.

## Trampoline

The UCD Trampoline team excelled at the Trampoline University Championships, winning the Intervarsities Cup along with several gold medals. Pdraig Casey, Kirsty Cowan and Niamh Hutchinson were among the gold medalists.

## Ultimate Frisbee

UCD Ultimate Frisbee had a banner year, winning all three outdoor intervarsity tournaments. Notably, they claimed victory in the Women's outdoor event for the first time.



UCD Ladies & Men's Boat Clubs with their Colours Boat Race trophies (Photo credit: Sportsfile).

## Colours Boat Races

**The 2024 Colours Boat Races took place on the River Liffey from O'Connell Bridge to St James' Gate in late March. Both the Men's and Ladies Boat Clubs enjoyed success at this year's event.**

Notably, UCD retained both senior titles with the Senior 8+ UCD Ladies Boat club crew retaining the Corcoran Cup. The crew was made up of N Campbell, J Farrell, N Allison, T Phelan, D O'Brien, L Roche, A Daly, S Daly; cox L Ryan.

The UCD Men's Boat club Senior 8+ crew also retained the Gannon Cup. The winning crew was D Crooks, S Daly, A Carroll, C Conway, P Flood, R Mason, E McGrath, D Murray; cox R Nelson. The UCD Ladies Novice crew won the Sally Moorhead Trophy, with the winning crew made up of O O'Sullivan, K Gibney, L Dwan, C Quinn, E McCann, G Dowling, P Grimes, E Fitzpatrick; cox N Farrell.

Unfortunately, Men's Trinity Novice crew proved to be stronger than UCD's on the day, but based on the talent on show, the future looks bright for UCD rowing.



The Chartered Financial Analysis (CFA) Challenge Winners Team and Mentors

## Smurfit Wins CFA Research Challenge 2024

UCD Smurfit School Team members **Jeremy Papageorges (Belgium), Eric Peppard (Ireland), Diya Kumar Iyer (India), Oscar Dupagne (Belgium), and Philipp Landwehr (Germany)** won the Chartered Financial Analysis (CFA) Ireland Research Challenge which was hosted by Davy Stockbrokers in late February 2024.

The UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School Team comprised students from the finance related suite of MSc Programmes: MSc (Finance), MSc (Quantitative Finance), MSc (Financial Data Science) and MSc (Sustainable Finance).

UCD Smurfit School competed against Trinity College, University College Cork, Dublin City University and Queens University Belfast. The team was ably mentored by Dr Cormac Mac Fhionnlaich and Marie Gillespie, CFA, ESG Research Lead, AIB. Together, Cormac and Marie have mentored UCD Smurfit School to three in a row CFA Research Challenge wins.

The focus company was Kingspan, a global leader in high performance insulation and building solutions. The team's report and presentation concluded with a BUY recommendation.

The UCD Smurfit School team will now go onto the represent the School, UCD and Ireland at the Northern Europe Sub Regional Final during the month of March, where they will compete against National CFA Research Championship Teams from Finland, Norway and Sweden.



Pictured (l-r): Jack Tiernan, Aisling Wood, Sadhbh Wood and Éibhe Kehoe.

## UCD Quinn School students win first Hult Prize Competition held in Ireland

**UCD Quinn School students Sadhbh Wood, Business & Law; Éibhe Kehoe, Business & Law; Muhammad Memon, Economics & Finance; Jack Tiernan, Business & Law; and Sadhbh Wood's sister and co-founder, Aisling Wood, won the UCD On-Campus Hult Prize Competition which challenges young people to solve the world's most pressing issues through social entrepreneurship.**

The Hult Prize is the largest student-led social entrepreneurship competition in the world with the goal of encouraging students to create world-changing, sustainable businesses that are in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. This is the first time that the competition has been held in Ireland.

UCD Quinn School's team, Bean Around,

was founded in 2020 by Sadhbh and her sister Aisling. They created sustainable exfoliating soaps and body scrubs made from 100% repurposed coffee grinds, all handcrafted in Dun Laoghaire. The company was founded to help combat the waste generated from over 2.25 billion cups of coffee consumed each day around the globe, which results in over six million tons of used

coffee grounds going to landfills annually. Bean Around's solution is repurposing this coffee waste into an exfoliating soap bar and other products. One hundred percent of the used coffee grounds collected are given another lease of life, bringing coffee waste into the circular economy.

Bean Around's soap bars are available to purchase in participating retail stores and coffee shops. In June, winners of the qualifying On-Campus Hult Prize programmes represented their universities at a summit held in Lisbon, Portugal. The winning team will receive \$1 million in funding to make their idea a reality.



The Irish Women's National Cricket Team pictured with Ava Canning.

## ■ Celebrating Ad Astra Scholar Ava Canning

Ava Canning, a UCD Stage 2 Computer Science student, has been a member of the Irish Women's National Cricket Team since 2021, as well as playing for Leinster and Typhoons. The Irish Cricket Team has just concluded a very successful tour of Zimbabwe, where they were the winners of both the ODI and

T20I series, winning seven games and drawing one. Ava, who is also an Ad Astra scholar, has fulfilled some incredible sporting achievements that are happening alongside her excellent work in her studies here.



Students receiving their white coats from School of Veterinary Medicine faculty in UCD's O'Reilly Hall.

## ■ White Coat Ceremony 2024

**In March 2024, the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine celebrated the milestone achievement of the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing Classes of 2025 as they received their white coats in UCD O'Reilly Hall.**

The students were joined by families and friends from across Ireland and from as far afield as the USA. The White Coat Ceremony is an important event in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine calendar as it marks the students' transition into clinical practice in the UCD Veterinary Hospital, and beyond, in the final year of their degree programmes. The UCD Alumni Office arranged for every student participating in the event to receive a stethoscope clip for use in their clinical year. The clips were presented with a quote from Leslie Ann Jones, Veterinary Medicine graduate 2003: 'Only a person who loves a challenge would take care of patients who can't tell them where it hurts!' The event was live streamed for those who were unable to join in person.